

## April Worship Schedule

*Sunday mornings – the heart of our life together*

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

### **Thursday, April 2:** Maundy Thursday

**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

### **Friday, April 3:** Good Friday

**Scripture:** Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 22, Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16 and 5:7-9, John 18:1-19:42

### **Saturday, April 4:** Holy Saturday

**Scripture:** Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9 and 19-24, Psalm 31:1-4 and 15-16.

### **Sunday, April 5:** Easter

**Scripture:** Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6, Psalm 118:1-2 and 14-24,  
Colossians 3:1-4, John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

There are no lectionary surprises this Sunday. The centerpiece of the lessons this week is Matthew's recounting of the first Easter, complete with the women, earthquake, angel, guards that looked like they were dead, and finally an appearance from Jesus. In Acts, we have a proclamation by Peter that Christ's work in his life, suffering and death, and resurrection are offered to all nations, not just the Jews. The Psalm is a praise for the mighty God and the short lesson from Colossians says in light of Christ's resurrection set your minds on things above.

### **Sunday, April 12:** Second Sunday of Easter

**Scripture:** Acts 2:14a 22-32, Psalm 16, I Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31

Our Psalm today is a hymn of thanksgiving for the blessings offered to the faithful and in Acts we are given a simple creed, which includes a testimony from King David, which summarizes the work of Christ, emphasizing the resurrection. Peter reassures Christians who are living under persecution that God, indeed, has given them a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Christ. The gospel lesson is also one of encouragement, as Jesus appears to all of the disciples, but the absent Thomas, doubts their testimony until Jesus appears to all of them, including Thomas, again.

### **Sunday, April 19:** Third Sunday of Easter

**Scripture:** Acts 2:14a, 36-41, Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19, 1 Peter 1:17-23,  
Luke 24:13-35

A couple of weeks after Easter we are still being encouraged by Jesus' post resurrection appearances. This week Jesus appears to two disciples as they walk together on the road to Emmaus. Eventually, they sit down to eat with the stranger, and as the stranger breaks bread with them, they recognize the risen Christ. 3000 people

are baptized by the disciples, in Acts as Peter, responding to a questioning crowd, says, "Turn back to God, be baptized, receive forgiveness, receive the Holy Spirit." The psalmist offers prayer and praise to the God who is greater than death. Peter speaks about being born anew, through the work and power of Christ, not of perishable but of imperishable seed.

**Sunday, April 26:** Fourth Sunday of Easter

**Scripture:** Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23, I Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10

The Fourth Sunday of Eastertide is often called Good Shepherd Sunday because three of the four lessons reference sheep and shepherds and the gospel lesson in John is often titled, Jesus the Good Shepherd. In the gospel lesson, Jesus describes himself as a shepherd, who unlike the bandits and thieves, loves, protects, and saves his sheep. In the Psalm, God is described as the shepherd who cares dearly for his sheep. And in I Peter, Christian slaves living in non-Christian households are encouraged to be obedient to their masters, even if they must suffer, because in doing so they model Christ-like behaviors. Finally, in the Acts of the Apostles, with phrases like, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers," and "they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need," the life of the early Christian community is described.

**Pastor's Message**



**Empty Tomb:** Despite using donuts, symbols for Shrove Tuesday's and Mardi Gras pancake celebrations, the empty tomb signifies the resurrection, marking the event when the tomb was found open and empty, representing life over death.

At Christmas, we at Immanuel, use many different symbols of the season. Our Christmas Tree alone, has over a dozen different Chrismons or liturgical symbols. Yet, at Easter, it seems we do not pay as much attention to, or have as many, symbols around us. I may be wrong though! So this month, I thought I might review the symbols of Easter.

**The Cross/Crucifix:** Obviously, the central Christian symbol representing Jesus' sacrifice, crucifixion, and victory over death is the cross. The Empty Cross is associated with Easter and the Crucifix (a cross with Jesus on it) is associated with Good Friday.

**Flowers:** Flowers which come to life in the spring are prominent symbols of Easter within the church. Lilies are likely the most common flower associated with Easter. Their white flower symbolizes the purity, innocence, resurrection, and divinity of Jesus Christ. Other popular choices include daffodils (new beginnings), tulips (rebirth/perfect love), hyacinths (sincerity), daisies (innocence), and azaleas. These, along with hydrangeas and passion flowers, represent spring and the holiday's themes. One other flower which is a symbol of Easter is the Lilly of the Valley. This spring perennial represents innocence and perpetual life.

**Trees:** Weeping willow trees, which are one of the first trees to show buds and leaves in the spring, are strongly associated with Easter, particularly in Eastern European and Orthodox traditions where their branches are used as a substitute for palm fronds on Palm Sunday. They symbolize the resurrection, life after death, and the "weeping" of Christ, with twigs often decorated with eggs or used to bless homes.

The Dogwood Tree is another symbol of Easter. The white petals of the dogwood tree contain five red spots, symbolic of the five wounds Jesus suffered on the cross. According to legend, after Jesus was crucified, the dogwood was cursed, never again to grow large enough to be used for another cross.

**Lamb:** Represents Jesus as the "Lamb of God," symbolizing sacrifice and innocence.

**Easter Eggs:** Represent new life, fertility, and the resurrection; the shell represents the sealed tomb, while cracking it symbolizes Jesus emerging from the tomb.

**Light/Paschal Candle:** Represents Jesus as the "Light of the World" and the light of the resurrection, often lit during Easter vigil services. By the way, the meaning of paschal is, "relating to Easter of the Jewish Passover."

**Butterfly:** The butterfly is a widely recognized symbol of Easter, representing the resurrection of Jesus Christ and new life. Its three-stage metamorphosis—caterpillar (life), cocoon (death), and butterfly (resurrection)—parallels the Easter story, symbolizing the transformation from earthly life to eternal. The dragonfly, for the same reasons, is also a symbol of Easter and the resurrection.

**Easter Bunny:** While I personally have never considered the Easter Bunny as a "church" symbol of Easter, evidently, according to some, its symbolism is derived from ancient pagan traditions where the hare symbolizes abundant new life, fertility, and spring.

### **Lesser-known Symbols of Easter** (or I learned something new writing this article!)

**The spear:** The Holy Lance or Spear of Longinus is a symbol of Easter, representing the Passion of Christ. It is considered one of the Instruments of the Passion, used by a soldier to pierce Jesus' side during the crucifixion to ensure he was dead.

**The Lion (Lion of Judah):** Symbolizes courage, victory, and the resurrection.

**Hot Cross Buns:** Sweet buns marked with a cross, traditionally eaten on Good Friday, representing the cross of the crucifixion. Personally, I remember learning to play hot cross buns on the clarinet decades ago, but I am not sure my family ever made or ate these treats, and I never knew they were associated with Easter. Evidently though, they commemorate the death of Jesus by featuring a cross on top.

**Crown of Thorns:** Some say the crown of thorns is associated with Easter, but I understand it as more closely associated with the events of Good Friday. As scripture affirms, it symbolizes the suffering, humiliation, and sacrifice of Jesus.

Finally, there are two colors often connected to Easter celebrations:

**White:** Represents light, purity, joy, and the Resurrection (often used for the Paschal candle and altar coverings).

**Green:** Represents growth and new life, often used during the extended Easter season.

Peace, Pastor Dale

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

Pastor Dale will offer a Maundy Thursday worship service beginning at 6:30pm on April 2<sup>nd</sup>

## EASTER SUNDAY

Join in the fun on Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. 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 24<sup>th</sup> 4:00-6:30pm. 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: \$15, children 5-12: \$7, children 4 and under: free. Family Package: 2 adults & 2 children (under 12): \$35.

## IN THE COMING MONTHS...

### MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day will be on Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. As usual, the men of the church will be providing a Mother's Day breakfast at 8:00am.

## **SPRING SALE/YARD SALE – MAY 16, 2026**

Spring is upon us and we are beginning to plan for our annual Spring/Yard Sale which will be held on Saturday, May 16th. We know it is a little early, but we wanted to let you know that the event is on 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 26<sup>th</sup> and we would appreciate no deliveries after May 8<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:murphy2a@comcast.net)

## 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  
Office Administrator  
Choir Director/Organist  
Pianist

## Your Church Council

Wallace Dodson, President

Debbie Luthy  
Mark Eberspacher  
John Adkins  
Susie Creighton

Stephanie Dunnock  
Sam Reeder  
Charlotte Hanson  
Lynn Nossick  
Lynn Malkus-Lyons

## Church Contact Information


Office Hours - Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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

# APRIL 2026

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 5 8:30a Contin- nental breakfast Easter Egg Hunt 10a Worship	6	7 11-noon Bible Study	8	9 6:30p Choir Practice	10 Garden Club	11
12 10a Worship	13 6:30p Council Meeting	14 11-noon Bible Study	15 1-6 p Blood Bank	16 6:30p Choir Practice	17	18
19 10a Worship	20	21 11-noon Bible Study	22	23 6:30p Choir Practice	24 4:00-6:30 Spaghetti Dinner	25
26 10a Worship	27	28 11-noon Bible Study	29	30 6:30p Choir Practice		

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April 26—May 8  
 Receiving items  
 For yard sale .

**COUNTERS:**  
 April 5 George Barnett & Bill Bair  
 April 12 Tom Wilkison & Beverly Shelly  
 April 19 Robin Burton & Kathy Kelly  
 April 26 George Barnett & Bill Bair

**CHANCEL**  
 ALL SUNDAYS—WHITE



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*Return Service Requested*



**Spaghetti Dinner**  
**Friday, April 24, 2026**  
**(See inside for details)**