

February Worship Schedule

Sunday mornings – the heart of our life together

10:00 Worship for All Ages

Sunday, February 5: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12), Psalm 112:1-9 (10), I Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16), Matthew 5:13-20

As we proceed further into the Sermon on the Mount this week, we hear Jesus tell us we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world and then speaks about his relationship to the law. Isaiah, in the Old Testament lesson, contrasts mere religious rituals, which he says is false worship, and the service God requires, which is true worship. The psalmist offers instructions about the characteristics and benefits of righteous living and Paul writes how the foolishness of the gospel is really the highest wisdom.

This Sunday is also Mission Sunday, so we have invited Ms. Krista Pettit to tell us about ONE MISSION CAMBRIDGE both in our worship time and during the fantastic Brunch which will follow worship. Mission Sunday is a time to learn about how Immanuel helps our neighbors and to financially support our efforts.

Sunday, February 12: Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 119:1-8, I Corinthians 3:1-9, Matthew 5:21-37

In the second to last week of the Epiphany season, the scripture lessons seem not to be as memorable or familiar, but still offer a powerful message. In the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy, God sets before the people the way of life and prosperity and the way of death and adversity and calls the Israelites to choose wisely and follow the commandments he has given. The psalm is a praise of the law and the benefits of keeping God's instruction. In I Corinthians, after the cursory greeting and thanksgivings, Paul, comes to the reason for writing the letter to the Corinthians – division within the church -- and writes that we are all God's servants. In the middle of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches about the law, addressing anger, murder, adultery, divorce, and swearing.

Installing of Council members, pending availability.

Sunday, February 19: Transfiguration Sunday

Scripture: Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12), Psalm 112:1-9 (10), I Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16), Matthew 5:13-20

On this, the last Sunday after Epiphany, as usual we will read the account of Jesus' Transfiguration. This scripture finds Jesus taking Peter, James, and John up the mountain to witness his glory and hear the voice of God. In Exodus, in a story that sounds a lot like the Matthean story, Moses, following God's instructions, ascends Mount Sinai to receive the tablets of stone on which the commandments are written and

resides in God's glory for some time. The psalm speaks of God's power and reign, and the role of his anointed, and in 2 Peter, recalling Jesus' transfiguration, the apostles assure their opponents that Christ is the Messiah who will come to judge and rule the world. Ash Wednesday Pancake Lunch served in Fellowship Hall following worship.

Wednesday, February 22: Ash Wednesday

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

As February comes to an end the season Lent begins and we have before us the usual Ash Wednesday scriptures. The prophet Joel sets the tone for the Lenten season with the words, "Even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing." The psalm is a prayer for cleansing and pardon which includes the familiar phrase, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and a put a new and right spirit within me." In the gospel of Matthew, and, also in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches us about giving alms in secret, praying privately and sincerely, and fasting without seeking attention. In 2 Corinthians, Paul urges the Corinthians, and us, to be reconciled to God, for now is the day of salvation.

Sunday, February 26: First Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12), Psalm 112:1-9 (10), I Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16), Matthew 5:13-20

With the beginning of the forty-day season of Lent, we begin with the account of Jesus being led into the wilderness for forty days and being tempted three times by the devil. The themes of sin and forgiveness continue in the other scriptures. In Genesis, God puts the man in the garden and warns him not to eat of the tree of knowledge. In the second part of the Genesis reading the man and the woman succumb to temptation, eat the forbidden fruit, and suffer the consequences. In the letter to the Romans, Paul compares Adam (sin and death, and the law) to Christ (forgiveness and life, and grace). And finally, in the Psalm, we are offered a song about the joy of forgiveness, which begins with, "Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered."

PASTOR'S MESSAGE:

Year A of the Lectionary Cycle focuses on the gospel of Matthew, and to a lesser extent Corinthians and the Minor Prophets of the Old Testament. Three years ago I offered a primer on the gospel of Matthew in the January newsletter, so today I will offer, what seems like a lengthy article, but is a pretty brief overview of the Twelve minor prophets.

In the Christian Bible or canon, we count these twelve small books as individual books making a total of thirty-nine Old Testament books. In the Hebrew Canon there are twenty-four books because the twelve small books all fit on one scroll.

Hosea – 14 chapters

- Written around 750 – 722 B.C.
- Concerns
 - Religious pluralism especially the flourishing worship of the god Baal
 - Royal politics of the Northern Kingdom and its violence, instability, and changing alliances with different foreign powers
- Most well-known verse 6:6 -- *For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt-offerings.*
- Themes and organization
 - Chapters 1-3 are organized around the theme of marriage as a metaphor for God's relation to a chosen people, with the people being considered a promiscuous wife.
 - Chapters 4-14 are filled with literary units about Israel's past, judgement, and promise of restoration.

Joel – 3 chapters

- Well-known verse 2:1 - *Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—* used most frequently on Ash Wednesday
- Themes
 - Historical theme: Locust plague, a metaphor for an invading army
 - Theological theme: the day of the Lord
- Message
 - Unlike other eighth century prophets like Amos, Micah, Hosea, and Isaiah, offers positive words about public worship and religious ritual.
 - It is through this worship and ritual, that the people are called to repent for unnamed crimes. The invaders are the punishment for the sinful behaviors.
 - Following the repentance and the people's return to the Lord, the invading army will leave and never return, their enemies will fall, and the Lord will restore their land.

Amos – 9 chapters

- Written early in the 8th century BCE
- Amos was a native of the Southern Kingdom (Judah), who went to the Northern Kingdom to proclaim the word of God.
- Most of the book is filled with speeches attributed to the prophet, but there are parts that are hymns, reports about the prophets activities, and retrospectives on the prophets work.

- Message -- Amos announces punishment in the form of a total military disaster because of social injustices and religious arrogance.
- Most well-known verse, 7:7-8 -- *This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb-line, with a plumb-line in his hand. And the LORD said to me, 'Amos, what do you see?' And I said, 'A plumb-line.' Then the Lord said, 'See, I am setting a plumb-line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by;*

Obadiah – 1 chapter

- Little to nothing is known about Obadiah, other than the name means slave/servant of Yahweh
- Most well-known verse, 1:2 -- *I will surely make you least among the nations; you shall be utterly despised.*
- Message
 - The first half of the short book is filled with “oracles against the nations” and speaks about Edom, a nation to the south of Judah, getting its just deserts for what it has done to Judah.
 - In the second half of the book, will be restored and possess many of the nations around it.

Jonah – 4 chapters

- Jonah, unlike many of the other prophets, offers a one verse oracle to a city in Assyria rather than in his home country.
- The book, while difficult to pin down, was most likely written in the sixth or fifth century BC while the Hebrews were in exile.
- The familiar story of Jonah is a satire where Jonah says the right things but does the opposite.
- Most well-known verse, 1:17 -- *But the LORD provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.*

Micah – 7 chapters

- Well-known verse 6:8 -- *He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*
- The name, Micah, is an exclamation meaning, “Who is like the Lord!”
- With Amos, Hosea, and Isaiah, Micah was one of the 8th century B.C.E. prophets.
- Micah was concerned primarily with ethical issues, declaring the sins of Judah would eventually lead to punishment. The issues most important to Micah was religious worship without social justice, that care for the poor, was meaningless.

Nahum – 3 chapters

- Most well-known verse, 1:3 -- *The LORD is slow to anger but great in power, and the LORD will by no means clear the guilty. His way is in whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.*
- Nahum is a poetic book filled with vivid images that express the Lord's coming judgement against Ninevah.
- Nahum has been criticized as a vengeful book, best read along with Jonah so that God's compassion can be seen.

Habakkuk – 3 chapters

- Most well-known verse, 3:19 -- *GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, and makes me tread upon the heights.*
- Habakkuk was likely written in the last quarter of the 7th century B.C.E and the first decade of the 6th century B.C.E
- With little known about prophet's historical background and the book's very diverse literary styles, different religious traditions (Jewish, Qumran community, Christian) have diverse understandings of the book.
- The prayer in chapter 3, with its repeated complaints and questions, yet concluding with the affirmation, "God, the Lord, is my strength," is the highlight of the book.

Zephaniah – 3 chapters

- Most well-known verse, 3:17 -- *The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.*
- Likely written between 640-609 B.C.E.
- The book shares an awareness of the corruption and injustice in Judah and includes a word of hope which rests a remnant of humble and faithful people not associated with the corrupt and disobedient leaders.
- It has been suggested that Zephaniah is a disciple of Isaiah.

Haggai – 2 chapters

- Little is known about the prophet, but Haggai (and Zechariah) are mentioned in Ezra 5:1 and 6:14.
- Haggai's name is derived from a Hebrew verbal root hgg, which means "to make a pilgrimage."
- Most well-known verse, 1:5-6 -- *Now therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider how you have fared. ⁶You have sown much, and harvested little; you eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill; you clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; and you that earn wages earn wages to put them into a bag with holes.*
- The book was written in the post-exilic period and is primarily concerned with the reconstruction of the Temple.

Zechariah – 14 chapters

- Most well-known verse, 9:9 -- *Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*
- Zechariah was likely written by more than one hand, with the chapters 1-8 being very different from chapters 9-14.
- The prophecy written in the post-exilic period, in the first half links the salvation and restoration of Judah to worship and sacrifice, while the second half, which describes a disillusion with that “plan” and is increasingly concerned with the impending “day of the Lord.”

Malachi – 4 chapters

- Malachi is likely not a personal name. but a title, “My Messenger.”
- Written around 445 BCE
- Messages
 - God is displeased with the lack of piety in the community gathered around the Temple.
 - God is about to send a messenger.
- Most well-known verse, 3:2-3 -- *But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness.*
- Concerns and good news
 - Disorder of the sacrificial worship of the Temple
 - Intermarriage with foreign women
 - God will soon send a messenger who will reunite and purify all of Israel prior to the “great and terrible Day of the Lord.”

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual congregational meeting of Immanuel United Church of Christ took place on Sunday, January 29th following the worship service. The annual report was reviewed, which included committee reports and financial information for the 2022 calendar year as well as the budget for 2023. Elected to serve on the church council for three years were Chuck Hanson, Caroline Price and Sam Shelly. They will be joining current council members: Lou Jones, Max Schnoor and Tina-Lyte Davis, Jack Breil, George Barnett and Sherry Hoefler and our President of the Congregation, Bill Bair.

MISSION UPDATE & LUNCH

Please be sure to join us on February 5th following the worship service for our Missions Brunch. Our guest speaker will be Krista Pettit of One Mission Cambridge. One Mission Cambridge is a coalition of Christian Churches and ministries called to provide hope through Jesus Christ by meeting the physical and spiritual needs of men, women, and children in Cambridge.

One Mission Cambridge is an organization that serves our vulnerable neighbors through programs at a mission center. This mission center is located at 614 Race Street. Area churches serving together to provide for those in need operate the mission center. This location provides a food pantry, community navigation services, community dinners, and counseling programs.

ASH WEDNESDAY PANCAKE LUNCHEON

You are invited and we hope everyone will attend our annual “**Ash Wednesday Pancake Luncheon**” on February 19th in the Fellowship Hall. The luncheon will be held immediately after the Church service.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Ash Wednesday is February 22nd. We will have worship service at 6:30pm.



SPAGHETTI DINNER



Plans are well underway for our Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, February 10th 4:30-7pm. Dinner includes spaghetti (sauce – with or without meat) salad, garlic bread and drink. Desserts available for purchase.

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

BIBLE STUDY

The next Bible Study class started June 24, 11am to noon. This session we will Study "Parables from the Backside" by J Ellsworth Kalas. For information call Donna Campbell 443-521-0112 or Claudia McDonald 410-463-4055



DORCHESTER COUNTY WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

This prayer breakfast is a long-standing tradition of women from many different Dorchester churches joining together for prayer. We will be hosting the Prayer Breakfast this year on **Saturday morning, March 18, starting at 8:00am** in our Fellowship Hall. Our guest speaker will be Betsy Jones from Allen Methodist Church.

The Ladies Prayer Breakfast in February will be held at St. Luke's UMC, 712 Bradley Avenue, Cambridge, MD at 8:00am

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY – EMERGENCY COLD WEATHER SHELTER

Our local shelter serves some of the most vulnerable people in Dorchester County: those without homes who struggle with joblessness and, in many cases, addiction and mental illness. The Shelter opened in December at the Salvation Army on Washington Street in Cambridge, where the guests are provided a warm bed, hot dinner, and breakfast in the morning. In addition, guests receive counseling regarding local transition resources for their various needs. All of this is made possible by the generosity of local congregations such as ours, donations from businesses, foundations and community groups and the hard work of many volunteers.

Immanuel Church is responsible for preparing dinner and breakfast items on the second and fourth Thursdays from December through March. We will need people to step up and help. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we will only be delivering the meals (we will not be serving them.) The meals must be delivered to the Salvation Army building by 6:00pm

We still have several dates which need to be filled - March 9 (main dish & sides) and March 23 (main dish/sides & drinks)

MEMBERS & STAFF FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

February Birthdays

Aaron Collins	2/1
Cheryl Tomey	2/3
George Barnett	2/7
Taylor Middleton	2/7
Chad Malkus	2/11
Mitchell McDonald	2/11
Alexia Bair	2/15
Kelly Dodson	2/15
Jean Foxwell	2/16
Jim Creighton	2/17
Dale Krotee	2/17
Scarlet Luthy	2/21
Meg Windsor	2/23
Maggie Meilhammer	2/26
Dennis Jones	2/28
Blake Parker Todd	2/29

February Anniversary

Diana & Dale Krotee 2/14



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

Catherine Burton
Robin Burton
Jock Luthy
Jack Breil
George Barnett

Sherry Hoefler
Tina Lyte-Davis
Max Schnoor
Lou Jones

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:

Carter BASS, grandson of Jim & Susie Creighton, health issues
Ian CAMPBELL, health issues
Donald & Patsy CREIGHTON, health issues
Susie CREIGHTON, knew replacement surgery
Dolores DIXON, health issues
Scott DODSON, health issues
Wells David DODSON, son of Scott & Amy Dodson
Bill FOXWEL L, facing health challenges
Brent MALKUS, health issues by Terry & Bill Malkus

Friends of Immanuel Church:

Mary Ann AARON, great aunt of Robin Burton, in Mallard Bay
Bill BANNON, friend of Keith Malkus, health issues
Jeff BREIL, son of Lynne & Jack Breil, in hospital in York, PA
John GOLDEN of Austin, TX, friend of Brent Malkus, health issues
Henry KROTEE, Pastor Dale's father, health issues
John LOWENSEN, father of Diana Krotee, health issues
Lillian LOWENSEN, mother of Diana Krotee, health issues
Sandy STUBBS, Courtney Schnoor's mother, cancer
Bill TYLER, husband of Carolyn Tyler, 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 including some area churches
For the healing of our nation and the world, both physical & emotional

Members and Friends Serving in Our Armed Forces:

Christopher ANTENEN, U. S. Air Force, now stationed in the USA,
grandnephew of the late Jean Haddaway
Hunter BROWN, U.S. Army, stationed in Wiesbaden, Germany
Friend of Laura Dixon
Jake CREIGHTON, Captain, U.S. Army, stationed at Ft. Huachuca, AZ
Alton FRASE, U.S. Marine Corps, Camp Geiger, 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.
Matthew L. RUBLE, II, U.S. Army, nephew of Michal Dixon,
stationed in Texas
Lucas TOLLEY, son of Leslie & Adam Tolley, grandson of
Lou & Dennis Jones, U.S. Marine Corps, Fort Lee, Virginia
Jason T. WARDEN, Marines, nephew of Michal Dixon, in Japan

FEBRUARY 2023

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 6:30p Choir Practice	3	4 Health Fair 10a –noon
5 10a Worship 11:30a Mission Brunch	6	7 11-noon Bible Study	8	9 6:30p Choir Practice Feed Shelter	10 4:30-7p Spaghetti Dinner	11
12 10a Worship Council Installed (date pending)	13	14 11-noon Bible Study	15	16 1-6p Blood Bank 6:30p Choir Practice	17	18
19 10a Worship Ash Wed Pancake Lunch	20	21 11-noon Bible Study	22 6:30p Ash Wed. Service	23 6:30p Choir Practice Feed Shelter	24	25
26 10a Worship	27	28 11-noon Bible Study				

COUNTERS

June 5 – Robin Burton & Kathy Kelly
 June 12 – Bill Bair & Sherry Hoefler
 June 19 – Joyce Malik & Tom Wilkison
 June 26 – Robin Burton & Kathy Kelly

ALL SUNDAYS—GREEN



IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Return Service Requested



Friday, February 10, 2023
4:30 -7:00pm



Ash Wednesday Pancake Lunch
Following Worship on
Sunday, February 19, 2023

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP
SERVICE, FEBRUARY 22, 6:30PM