

February Worship Schedule

Sunday mornings – the heart of our life together

10:00 Worship for All Ages

Available on Zoom and on our Website

Sunday, February 2: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Scriptures: Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-6, I Corinthians 13:1-13, Luke 4:21-30

On this Sunday, when we highlight the Mission Ministries of Immanuel UCC and our community, we will welcome representatives from the Empowerment Center in Cambridge. There will be a guest speaker during worship and afterwards at the brunch following worship. It is a day when we invite our members and friends to support our mission and outreach with financial contributions. In addition, we invite everyone to bring a book or two or more for the Empowerment Center. Pastor Dale will not preach since it is Mission Sunday, but if you would like to know what the lectionary scriptures are, keep reading.

As we continue past Epiphany and the Baptism of Christ, and through the Epiphany season, we will read about the beginning of Jesus' public ministry and related scriptures. Our gospel lesson this week is the second half of what many commentators have called Jesus' inaugural speech, which we started on January 26. This second part of the passage is where Jesus reads, with authority, the lessons of Hebrew scripture in his local synagogue and then is rejected by many of the people who watched him grow up. The Old Testament scripture is Jeremiah's call and commission with the familiar words, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you." The psalm is a prayer for lifelong protection and help and the epistle lesson from I Corinthians is chapter 13, the love chapter that is almost always read at weddings.

Sunday, February 9: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Scriptures: Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13), Psalm 138, I Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11

The lectionary readings for this Sunday include a psalm of thanksgiving and praise, the call of the prophet Isaiah, and after fishing with Simon (Peter), Jesus calls Peter, James, and John to be his first disciples. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians summarizes the crucifixion, burial, resurrection, and the post resurrection appearances of Christ to others and to himself.

Sunday, February 16: Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Scriptures: Jeremiah 17:5-10, Psalm 1, I Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 6:17-26

Verses 17-49 in Luke's sixth chapter are often called the Sermon on the Plain and parallel Matthew's Sermon on the Mount. The verses we read today include Jesus healing of many people who were troubled with unclean spirits and the Lukan version of the Beatitudes which sound a little harsher than the more familiar Matthean verses. In this week's Old Testament lesson, we find a comparison of those who trust in mere mortals versus those who trust in the Lord, followed by a comment about God who searches the heart and judges with fairness. The psalm is a song describing two separate ways, one of wickedness and one of happiness or blessedness. Finally, in the letter to the Corinthians, Paul proclaims that not only was Christ resurrected, but that all believers participate in the resurrection of the dead.

Sunday, February 23: Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Scriptures: Genesis 45:3-11, Psalm 37:1-11 and 39-40, Luke 6:27-38

As the Epiphany season nears its end and the Lenten season approaches, we hear tough lessons about forgiveness and compassion. In Genesis, Joseph, after being beaten, sold into Egyptian slavery, and imprisoned, rises to remarkable success at the Pharaoh's side and reveals himself to his brothers as they come to Egypt for food where he chooses not to seek revenge for past injustices. In the gospel of Luke, Jesus expands on the theme of compassion and speaks the challenging words, "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you," The psalm is an exhortation to patience and trust and in I Corinthians, Paul clarifies his comments on the resurrection of the dead.

Sunday, March 2: 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 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.

Coming Soon:

Wednesday, March 5: Ash Wednesday
Sunday, March 9: Lent 1
Sunday, April 13: Palm Sunday
Sunday, April 20: Easter

Pastor's Message

Current events, and the movement within my own spiritual journey, lead me to invite you to join with me in thinking about the Church of Jesus Christ. Recently, I have been pondering its nature and purpose and call you to do the same.

In my article here, I will begin with the basics and will use a resource I used in seminary. It is Gabriel Fackre's book, "The Christian Story." His writings examine basic Christian doctrine and, if I remember correctly, was a textbook in my Introduction to Theology class. In Chapter five of seven, Fackre discusses The Church: Its Nature and Mission.

Part of the chapter is summarized in this chart:

<i>Nurture</i> (Inreach)	<i>Gifts of the Spirit</i> <i>and</i> <i>Marks of the Church</i>	<i>Mission</i> (Outreach)
Preaching and teaching	Kerygma (Telling)	Evangelism
Servanthood within (Care for brothers and sisters)	Diakonia (Doing)	Servanthood without (Social service and social action)
Life together within	Koinonia (Being)	Life together without
Worship	Leitourgia (Celebrating)	Festival

You can see Fackre identifies four “Marks of the Church” and describes what they are inside and outside of a congregation or church walls. Without using the fancy Greek words, the four marks or things which identify the church are how we Tell, Do, Are, and Celebrate the gospel of Jesus Christ. As you read these explanations, please keep in mind I am not talking Immanuel Church but everyone who is a Christian. Together everyone is the Church.

Inside the church, we share, or Tell, the gospel of Christ in the teaching and preaching ministries. It is easy to see how this means, as the old hymn says, “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus, I Long to Hear.” When we exit the church building’s doors and walk among those who may not attend another church, hopefully, we somehow share with them something about the life, teachings, and work of Jesus. This is Evangelism.

Again, as the church, while offering thoughts and prayers are a beginning, we are called to actually “Do” practical, consequential actions which help others. Within our congregations this is often called Pastoral Care and outside of our membership we frequently call this Mission and could involve anything from feeding and clothing the needy and similar ministries, to addressing the structural injustices of society.

Our “Being” the church may be the hardest part of this chart to understand and describe. I will suggest it is about the relationship and connections we have with each other in the church and in the community. The big fancy church word might be Covenant. Covenant is the sacred bond we have with each other which makes us consider the needs of our friends within the church and those we know and do not know outside of our religious community.

Finally, Fackre says the church is defined by our celebrations. Each week we celebrate Jesus Christ in our worship with our liturgy of word and song, and prayers. Beyond our walls, the major holidays of our faith become festivals celebrated in our homes and communities – hopefully retaining their true spiritual meaning and purpose.

There is so much more to consider when considering Ecclesiology – the study of the Church. Ecclesiology includes the study of the Church, the origins of Christianity, its relationship to Jesus, its role in salvation, its polity, its discipline, its eschatology, and its leadership. It also includes the study of its purpose, structure, ordinances, and more. Ecclesiology is a very important doctrine because it deals with the mission that God has given to us while here on earth.

I hope I have not jumped in water that is too deep and hope I have whetted your appetite for further discussion.

Peace, Pastor Dale

Two funny stories from the Craigville Colloquies

Rev. Dr. Gabe Fackre was a professor and Andover Newton Theological seminary but got his start at Lancaster Theological Seminary (before I attended this seminary) both of which are seminaries associated with the United Church of Christ. I met Dr. Fackre at the Craigville Colloquies I attended many years ago, on Cape Cod in Craigville, Massachusetts. One of my conversations with him happened while walking around the compound with a bunch of skunks walking the same pathways and roads.

One year at Craigville, I forgot my Bible, so I found a bookstore nearby, and purchased a Bible. When I got back to my room at Craigville, I opened the Bible to Paul's letter, the part of the Bible I really wanted to read and found 70 of those pages missing. And those were the pages I really wanted to read!

Associate Conference Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries

It is with great joy that I announce that the Rev. Holly R. Jackson has been called to serve as Associate Conference Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries for the Central Atlantic Conference. In this call, Rev. Jackson will provide Search and Call assistance for churches in pastoral transitions in the Potomac and portions of the Chesapeake Associations and provide Conference Staff support for the Committees on Ministry and Councils in both the Potomac and Chesapeake Associations. She will also serve as the primary contact and coordinator for the Justice and Witness ministries of the Conference.



Rev. Jackson (“Holly”) is by no means a stranger to many in the Central Atlantic Conference. She was ordained in 2016 in the Potomac Association to her present call as Pastor of the United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley in Germantown MD. Holly previously served as the Director of Christian Education at Hope United Church of Christ in Alexandria VA and was a youth group leader both at Rockville United Church and Sayville Congregational UCC in her native Long Island NY. Yet Holly also comes to this position with a wealth of experience with the wider United Church of Christ.

She served as a lay delegate both in the Central Atlantic and New York Conferences, served on the Potomac Association's Christian Education Committee, served as Vice-Moderator and Moderator of the Potomac Association, and currently serves on the CAC's Board of Directors as Vice-Moderator of the Conference. Holly received her Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington DC. She also holds a BA in Social Relations from Michigan State University and a Master of Social Work from Fordham University. Holly also was a Fellow in the Resilience in Leadership Program at Chicago Theological Seminary.

Holly will tell you that she is a beloved messy child of God on a mission to make people believe in love, hope, redemption, and the inherent worth of all beings. Based on the truth that God is still speaking and active in this world, her ministry focuses on grounding ourselves in scripture, spiritual disciplines, and community, so that we can practice loving our neighbors while doing the transformational work of justice. Although she knows all justice work is intersectional, she is particularly passionate about speaking out against violence, fighting for the rights and dignity of marginalized groups, ensuring voting rights, combating climate change, addressing, and eliminating poverty, and pushing back against White Christian Nationalism. She believes that humor and joy make life worthwhile, that being still, silent, and accountable before God is hard but necessary, and that speaking truth to power is a holy endeavor.

Holly is married to her college sweetheart, Patrick, and has two young adult children. When not focusing on church or family you will often find her singing, crafting, hiking, camping, reading, watching baseball (Go Nats!), petting her cats and dogs, or playing board games.

We anticipate Holly joining the CAC Ministry Team and staff in May. Please join me in congratulating Holly in this new role with the Central Atlantic Conference!

Faithfully Yours,
Rev. Freeman Palmer, CAC Conference Minister

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual congregational meeting of Immanuel United Church of Christ took place on Sunday, January 26th following the worship service. The annual report was reviewed, which included committee reports and financial information for the 2024 calendar year as well as the budget for 2025. Elected to serve on the church council for three years were Stephanie Dunnock, Mark Eberspacher and Sam Reeder. They will be joining current council members: Chuck Hanson, Carolyn Price, Susie Creighton, Debbie Luthy, John Askins and our President of the Congregation for 2025, Mac Schnoor. Special thanks to our retiring members: Tina Lyte-Davis, Max Schnoor and Lou Jones.

MSSION UPDATE & BRUNCH



You are invited to join us on Sunday, February 2nd when we will host a speaker and guests from the Cambridge Empowerment Center. The Cambridge Empowerment Center (CEC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing educational and enrichment programs for our community's youth and seniors. The CEC currently

operates a state-licensed after school program for children ages 5-12, a pre-kindergarten program serving children ages 3-5, and a summer camp program for children ages 5-13. At the summer camp children engage in a variety of learning activities including computer literacy, arts and crafts, physical education, sports, music, cooking, STEM projects, and field trips. These main programs are supplemented by special events and services, such as the annual Brunch with Santa event, featuring food, games, crafts, gifts for each child, and photo opportunities with Santa Claus; soup days; food and clothing drives; and senior health programs. All of CEC's programs and activities are offered on a low-cost or no-cost basis.

Sharon Chester is the Executive Director of CEC, which is governed by a board of local citizens volunteers. The CEC is located in the Octavene Saunders Building in Cambridge, on the site of the former 1918 Pine Street School in the heart of the African American community.

It will be a festive, Mardi Gras theme, beads included. To get your beads though, we will ask that people bring a children's book which will be donated to CEC and/or items for our food pantry.

Come hungry and plan to stay after worship for our delicious brunch when the speaker will tell us more about the CEC. A Love Offering will be taken that will go toward both the CEC and our own Local Missions to help our neighbors in need.

SPAGHETTI DINNER



Plans are well underway for our Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, February 7th 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 between 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.



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 15th, starting at 8:00am** in our Fellowship Hall.

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. 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

If you are able to handle one of the dinners it would be very much appreciated.

PIANO GIVE AWAY

We currently have 1 piano in our Council Room that is available to any Church member for **free**. Your only cost will be to have the pianos moved into your home (or business). Please contact Pastor Dale, Tina, or Curtis if you are interested.

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 Tyte-Davis

Pastor
Church Secretary
Choir Director/Organist
Pianist

Your Church Council

Max Schnoor - President

Chuck Hanson
Caroline Price
John Adkins

Susie Creighton
Debbie Luthy

Incoming Members:
Stephanie Dunnock
Mark Eberspacher
Sam Reeder

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:

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, health issues
Family & friends Ed CONNELLY, who died in December 2024
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
Brandy KEYES, 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
Phillip SPEDDED, 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



FEBRUARY 2025

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 Fellowship Hall Closed
2 10A Worship 11:30a Missions Meal	3 Fellowship Hall Closed	4 11-noon Bible Study	5	6 6:30p Choir Practice	7 4:30-7p Spaghetti Dinner	8
9 10a Worship	10	11 11-noon Bible Study	12	13 6:30p Choir Practice Feed Shelter	14	15
16 10a Worship	17	18 11-noon Bible Study	19	20 1-6p Blood Bank 6:30p Choir Practice	21	22
23 10:a Worship	24	25 11-noon Bible Study	26	27 6:30p Choir Practice Feed Shelter	28	

COUNTERS

February 2 George Barnett & Bill Bair

February 9 Tom Wilkison & Beverly Shelly

February 16 Robin Burton & Kathy Kelly

February 23 George Barnett & Bill Bair

CHANCEL

Feb. 2 - 16—GREEN

Feb. 23 —VIOLET



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Return Service Requested

MISSION'S BRUNCH
February 2nd 11:30am



SPAGHETTI DINNER
Friday, February 7, 2025
4:30 -7:00pm

