

May Worship Schedule

10:00 Worship for All Ages – on Zoom & in-house

Worship Schedule

Sunday, May 5: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 10:44-48, Psalm 98, I John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17

Our scripture lessons this week begin with the story in the Acts of the Apostles where Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit and Peter ordered that they be baptized. The Psalm is a song of praise for the judge of the world. In the epistle (letter) of First John, found near the very end of the New Testament, the writer says faith makes obedience to God's commands easy to follow. And in the gospel lesson, which follows the passage about Jesus being the True Vine, Jesus commands his followers to love one another as he has loved them.

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's supper on this Sunday.

Sunday, May 12: Seventh Sunday of Easter (Ascension)

Ascension Scripture: Acts 1:1-11, Psalm 47 or 93, Ephesians 1:15-23, Luke 24:44-53

Scripture: Acts 1:15-17 and 21-26, Psalm 1, I John 5:9-13, John 17:6-19

As we near the end of the Easter season, we continue to use readings from the Acts of the Apostles. This week we are in the first chapter of the book and dealing with the very practical concern of replacing Judas, the disciple who betrayed Jesus. As the book begins, we learn Mathias is chosen to replace Judas. In the gospel of John, Jesus prays for his disciples, and in the letter of First John, we hear testimony concerning the Son of God. Using beatitudes (a common literary device of Jesus's day), the psalmist describes the ways of the happy/blessed and wicked.

Sunday, May 19: Pentecost

Scripture: Acts 2:1-12 or Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 104:24-34 and 35b, Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21, John 15:26-27 and 16:4b-15

On Pentecost Sunday the emphasis is on the Holy Spirit. In the gospel of John, Jesus teaches the disciples about the coming of the Spirit. In the books of Acts, as usual, we read the story of the first Pentecost where, as the apostles are gathered, the Spirit descends on them as flames of fire, and witnesses hear the remarkable story of the disciples speak in a variety of languages. In the letter to the Romans, Paul writes about the difficulty of life today, and the future glory promised by God. The psalm is one of praise to the God who created the earth.

Sunday, May 26: Trinity Sunday/Memorial Day Weekend

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 29, Romans 8:12-17, John 3:1-17

The Sunday after Pentecost is the Sunday we focus on the Holy Trinity. In the Old Testament book of Isaiah, the prophet shares a vision of God in the Temple, which is also a model or outline we use for our liturgy. The Psalm is sometimes titled, "The Voice of God in a Great Storm." In the epistle to the Romans, Paul writes about what life in the Spirit is like. And finally, in the gospel of John, we hear the story of Nicodemus' first visit with Jesus, where Jesus teaches him about being born anew in the Spirit.

Pastor's Message – A Message for Eastertide!

Have you ever experienced any of those times when your mind just will not shut down, and it seems to run from thought to thought without braking? This happened to me when I was thinking about one of my weekly "Happenings" articles recently. Within the last month or two, I was reminded of a sermon I offered in August 2016 about the Country Song, "Beer with Jesus," by Thomas Rhett. There are a number of pop songs which are about matters of faith – some I like and believe make "sound" (pardon the pun) observations and comments about our Christian faith and some are just pop songs with little profound theological or spiritual commentary. Allow me to compare two very different, in my opinion, pop songs which illustrate this difference.

A couple of decades ago, while using the same theme of faith messages in pop songs, one of my sermons focused on, "Spirit in the Sky," by Norman Greenbaum. The lyrics for both songs, "Spirit in the Sky," and, "Beer with Jesus," can be found below, but as a brief summary of my thoughts on each song, I will offer this.

While I sing along to "Spirit in the Sky," whenever I hear it, I am not a huge fan of its theological and spiritual message. Norman Greenbaum was Jewish, and my research suggested he simply wanted to write a song that would sell records. I believe the theological message might best be described as, "What can Jesus do for me." Again, while I sing along to this song, it has a simplistic, self-centered message of faith – What's can Jesus do for me. In my opinion, this misses the mark to we are called as Christians.

On the other hand, "Beer with Jesus," is on the other side of the spectrum. It is about listening to what Jesus has to say, surrendering oneself and giving it to Jesus. Selena Blackwell, a UCC pastor who was a member of Immanuel a few years ago, says it well, "The singer is content to sit with Jesus and listen to him--similar to Mary sitting at the feet of Jesus in Luke's Gospel." Rhett wants Jesus to do most of the talking and is willing to sit where he couldn't see the clock in the chance that it will prolong his time with Jesus. I find the sacrificial giving of oneself to Jesus to be a central tenet of our faith and therefore I greatly prefer this Country song's message of faith more than message of the classic rock song.

This line of thinking, along with some other recent conversations about prayer, and my mind's running from thought to thought without braking, led me to another thought. It is about prayer. First, let me say, prayer is far more than intercessory – the fancy name for asking God for “things.” Prayer is an intimate conversation with God. It is also about paying attention to God. It is about surrendering oneself to God in a quiet time of listening. I am sure you can see the connection to Thomas Rhett's song. Mr. Rhett sang, “I'd be sure to let him do the talkin' and was willing to, “give up his whole paycheck to keep the juke box filled.”

One of the resources I had from one round of my seminary classes was, “Prayer and Temperament: Different Prayer Forms for Different Personality Types” by Chester P. Michael and Marie C Norrisey. The book reviews a variety of prayer styles and models and connects them to the different Myers Briggs Temperament Types. Here are two examples of prayers in the Augustian prayer style that would be recommended for me.

Read Hosea 2:16-22. Imagine God or Jesus speaking these words to you. What meaning would you derive from them? Change the words, pronouns, names, so that they apply to your present situation: and write the passage on a piece of paper. Imagine going to the mailbox and receiving today a personal letter addressed to you containing these words. What meaning would they have?

Read Colossians 3:12-17. Whatever you do, do it in the name of the Lord Jesus.” Pick out one of the virtues suggested here, one you would very much like to attain. Talk to Jesus about what you might do to attain it.

Again, I suspect you can see how there is powerful “listening” component to these prayers. This type of praying is far less about, “God I want, or God, help me with this or that.” There is a time and place for a variety of types of prayers, but for me, prayer should be a combination of talking to and listening to God.

This being said, I have had a concern that this type prayer may be susceptible to self-centeredness just as much as the ever-popular intercessory, “Please God give me this,” prayer. I am worried that when I follow the instructions of the prayer examples above I will write what “I” want Jesus to say to me. I need to say that again, I am afraid that in my response to the instructions, I will write, imagine, envision, not what Jesus wants, but what I want. This could move me to the “Spirit in the Sky,” self-centered end of the spectrum and away from the self-surrendering, “Beer with Jesus,” side of that continuum.

BUT, a really big BUT here, there is a big problem with this thought. And the problem became clearer to me as I studied the scriptures and planned worship throughout this Easter season. If I conclude that as I “pray” I alone create my own response and

imagine Jesus' words to me based only on what I think and feel and desire, I am denying God's presence in prayer. In the season of Eastertide, more than any other, this would be a sin.

My response and my thoughts, about my reaction to the instructions to the prayers suggested above – that is, being anchored in what I want Jesus to say to me – deny Christ's resurrection and life. The theme of Easter and obviously a foundational component of our faith is that CHRIST IS ALIVE. If I believe, and I do, believe that prayer is a conversation with God AND that Christ is alive and resurrected from the dead, then I need to put far more faith in the knowledge that Jesus can and will sit with me, listen to me, AND talk to me in my prayers – even in the prayers like the two I shared above.

So, in this season of Eastertide, I believe Jesus has given me a Gibb's-like smack on the back of the head and told me, "Hey, I AM ALIVE, buddy, ask for forgiveness, and get back to my work." Trust in me.

Peace, Pastor Dale

P.S. I have one final thought and it is a humorous criticism of "Beer with Jesus." I always thought Jesus was more of a wine kind of guy!

Ramp Build

Our Ramp Build with the Chesapeake Housing Mission will be Saturday morning, May 4. It will be in Cambridge on Washington Street and if you would like to help but have not yet signed up, please contact the office ASAP and we will do our best to get you connected and working!

Cambridge Lions Auction

On Saturday, May 4, the Cambridge Lions will be using our Fellowship Hall for a fundraiser. They will be having an Auction with many items donated by local businesses. The Doors will open at 10:00 am and the Auction will begin at noon!

A few of the more valuable items to be auctioned include:

--4-

- A Tow Job from Jess Jr. valued at \$125
- Car Service from Haddaway's valued at \$125
- A Pet Care Basket from Bayside Animal Hospital valued at \$125
- A Yamaha Guitar and Lessons from Rob Davis valued at \$344
- 4 Rounds of Golf donated by the Hyatt valued at \$320
- 2 Pair of Sunglasses from My Eye Doctor valued at \$80 each
- CarCare Kit from Preston Automotive valued at \$400
- A Concert at Hershey Park donated by WBOC
- A Craftsman 9 gallon Wet/dry Vac valued at \$90

And a whole lot more

Spirit in the Sky

Written and recorded by Norman Greenbaum

When I die and they lay me to rest
Gonna go to the place that's the best
When I lay me down to die
Goin' up to the spirit in the sky

Goin' up to the spirit in the sky
That's where I'm gonna go when I die
When I die and they lay me to rest
I'm gonna go to the place that's the best

Prepare yourself you know it's a must
Gotta have a friend in Jesus
So you know that when you die
He's gonna recommend you
To the spirit in the sky

Oh he'll recommend you to the spirit in the sky
That's where you're gonna go when you die
When you die and they lay you to rest
You're gonna go to the place that's the best

Never been a sinner, I never sinned
I got a friend in Jesus
So you know that when I die
He's gonna set me up
with the spirit in the sky

Oh set me up with the spirit in the sky
that's where I'm gonna go when I die
When I die and they lay me to rest
I'm gonna go to the place that's the best
Go to the place that's the best

Beer with Jesus

Written by Thomas Rhett, Rick Huckaby, and Lance Miller. Recorded by Thomas Rhett.

If I could have a beer with Jesus
Heaven knows I'd sip it nice and slow
I'd try to pick a place that ain't too crowded
Or gladly go wherever he wants to go

You can bet I'd order up a couple tall ones
Tell the waitress put 'em on my tab
I'd be sure to let him do the talkin'
Careful when I got the chance to ask

How'd you turn the other cheek
To save a sorry soul like me
Do you hear the prayers I send
What happens when life ends
And when you think you're comin' back again
I'd tell everyone, but no one would believe it
If I could have a beer with Jesus

If I could have a beer with Jesus
I'd put my whole paycheck in that jukebox
Fill it up with nothing but the good stuff
Sit somewhere we couldn't see a clock

Ask him how'd you turn the other cheek
To save a sorry soul like me
Have you been there from the start
How'd you change a sinner's heart
And is heaven really just beyond the stars
I'd tell everyone, but no one would believe it
If I could have a beer with Jesus

He can probably only stay,
for just a couple rounds
But I hope and pray he's stayin' till
we shut the whole place down

Ask him how'd you turn the other cheek
To save a sorry soul like me
What's on the other side?
Is mom and daddy alright?
And if it ain't no trouble tell them I said hi
I'd tell everyone but no one would believe it
If I could have a beer with Jesus
I'd tell everyone but no one would believe it
If I could have a beer with Jesus

COUNCIL MEETING

The next Church Council meeting is scheduled for May 19th following worship

2024 Spring Sale (Yard Sale and Food Items)

The Annual Spring Sale date is closing in and if you are planning to bring items for the “yard sale”, please bring them to Church **NO** later than May 12th so they can be priced and readied for the sale. If you have already brought item(s)—**THANK YOU!** We are hoping that we have a lot of items to sell.

We are still looking for volunteers to work that day or prior to the sale, either in the kitchen or at the Church’s yard sale table(s). We also need a couple of men to set-up and take down tables in front of the Church the morning/noon on May 18st. If you have the time and would like to help, please contact Diane Murphy at 410-228-5167 or put your name on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Don’t forget to sign-up or bring a bake goods item for sale. There are “**baked goods labels**” in the basket in the Narthex and remember, each item or package requires a label per the Health Department. The labels are “user friendly”—all you have to do is (1) write in the name of the item and (2) check the boxes for the ingredients in your recipe.

The sign-up sheet for the “**Chicken Salad Carry-out**” is on a table in the Narthex so don’t forget to place your order indicating the number you wish and the day you will pick them up—Saturday, May 19th or Sunday, May 20th

We are asking that you “**pre-order**” your soups and chicken salad prior to the Sale. This will greatly help us plan the amount of soups to make and the amount of chicken to purchase. You may call Diane Murphy at 410-228-5167 or email me at murphy2a@comcast.net Sign up sheet for pre-orders is in the Narthex. We still hope to have additional items available should you come in that day to purchase our soups and chicken salad.

We would like to thank everyone, in advance, for your help and orders!



MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

The men of Immanuel will prepare breakfast to honor the mothers of Immanuel UCC on Sunday, May 12th , 8 – 9:30am. All IUCC families are invited to attend!

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH – INVEST IN THE VISION

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. **By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.**

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Most congregations will receive the STC offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024.

GRADUATES



We would like to honor our graduates for 2023 on Sunday, June 9th . In order to do this, we will need to know who they are and their future plans. An information sheet is included in this newsletter which we would like you to complete and return to the church by **MAY 26** .

Please send your information sheet by e-mail: info@immanuelucc.faith. Of course, you may drop it in our locked mailbox located on White Hall Rd. or leave it in the church office. ***If you have a photo that we can include, send that to us as well by e-mail.***

Information on Graduates for Newsletter

Name _____
 First Middle Last

Address _____

Date of Graduation _____

School/University from which Graduating _____

Parents Name _____

Activities/Hobbies - church, school, community, etc.

Possible plans following graduation? _____

Any Brothers/Sister? _____

Any pets and their name? _____

Tremendous Giving Opportunity World Vision



For many years, the Rae and Leonard family, through gifts to the church and then to World Vision, have been supporting a child in Emprededores, Peru. Royer Gaeel Arroyo Sulca was born on July 29, 2005, and two of his photos have been displayed in our narthex for a few years. If you have not seen them, please take a moment and find them the next time you worship with us. This is not the first child Don, Doris and Kim have supported through the years.

Don Rae recently received an invitation to take advantage of an enhanced giving opportunity and he would like to invite the members of our congregation and our Mission Committee to take advantage of this unique giving event.

World Vision, through donor contributions, combined with public grants, is now offering a special event where every \$1 we donate to the global hunger response delivers \$7 in impact, bringing resources like critically needed food, clean water, child protection programs, nutritional support, and more to families facing hunger and starvation. World Vision will be multiplying our donation by 7 in this special giving opportunity, and The Rae family would like us to use this opportunity to reach out and care for children like Royer.

Charity Navigator, an agency that ranks charities and their financial and ethical qualities, gives World Vision a score of 94%, earning it a Four-Star rating. It says, if this organization aligns with your passions and values, you can give with confidence.

If you would like to contribute, please mark your offering "World Vision." If you have questions, please talk with Pastor Dale, Don Rae, or Kim Leonard.

MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

May Birthdays

Lindsay McDonald	5/2
Jake Creighton	5/2
Phyllis Murphy	5/2
Lucas Tolley	5/3
Ella Dodson	5/3
Nicholas Bradley	5/5
Linda Slacum	5/7
Kim Leonard	5/7
Leah Krotee	5/11
Sara Slacum	5/15
Amanda Bair	5/15
Kyle Jackson	5/15
Brenda Pender	5/16
Jocelyn Spies	5/20
Ronnie McCollister	5/24
Brian Malik	5/24
Jim Murphy	5/26

May Anniversaries

Susie & Jim Creighton	5/2
Connie & George Barnett	5/7
Jill & Jason Segar	5/17
Tracy & Andrew Frase	5/20
Kim & Bill Bair	5/22

BIRTHDAYS (Continued)

Kathy Kelly	5/27
Jillian Burton	5/27
Wendy Appollos	5/27
Giselle Burton	5/29
Bill Cox, III	5/29
Don Rae	5/30
Ruth Bradley	5/30
Steve McDonald	5/31

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

Bill Bair – President

Tina Lyte-Davis
Max Schnoor
Lou Jones
Sam Shelly

Chuck Hanson
Carolyn Price
John Adkins
Susie Creighton
Debbie Luthy

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

IMMAMUEL 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
Cassie BURTON, health issues
Dolores DIXON, health issues
Wells David DODSON, son of Scott & Amy Dodson
Bill FOXWELL, facing health challenges
Chris FOXWELL, health issues
Helen KROM, health issues
Pastor Dale KROTEE, health issues
Phyllis MURPHY, health issues
Frank SPILLMAN, health issues

Friends of Immanuel Church:

Shirley BURTON, Robin Burton's mother, health issues at home
Joan COLLINS, friend of Beverly Shelly, health issues
Kent ELZEY, brother of Julia Neman, health issues
Carolyn ELZEY, sister-in-law of Julia Newman, health issues
Manford "Hunter" McGLAUGHLIN, friend of Deana Kozak, health issues
Henry 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
Terry VINCENT, friend of Beverly Shelly, 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
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, Lance 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
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 Okinawa, Japan
Jason T. WARDEN, Marines, nephew of Michal Dixon, in North Carolina



2 Upcoming Fundraisers

WORKING TO END CHILDHOOD HUNGER



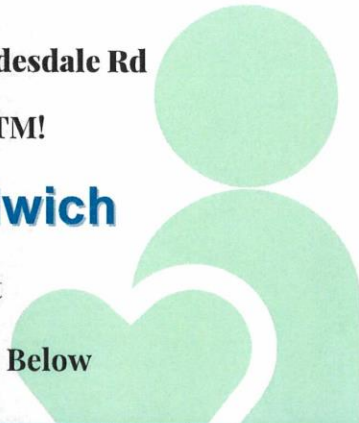
Flowers After Hours

Large Selection of Plants & Shrubs
Harvest Greenhouses 4646 East New Market-Rhodesdale Rd
Thursday May 9th, 2024 5-7pm
15% of All Purchases Will Be Donated To MTM!



BBQ Pit Beef/Turkey Sandwich

w/Chips, Soda or Water
Cambridge Tractor Supply Parking Lot
May 23rd, 2024 11am-1:30pm
\$10.00- To Place Orders Please Call Number Below



 Questions- Contact Meals til Monday
443-225-6789 or info@midshoremealstilmonday.org

MAY 2024

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

Immanuel United Church
of Christ
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Cambridge, MD 21613
Office: 410-228-4640
FAX: 410-221-6419
WEB:
www.immanuelucc.faith
Email—Office:
info@immanuelucc.faith
pastor@immanuelucc.faith

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 6:30p Choir Practice	3	4 Ramp Build
5 10a Worship	6	7 11a-noon Bible Study	8	9 6:30p Choir Practice	10	11
12 8-9:30a Mother's Day Breakfast 10a Worship	13 Fellowship Hall Closed	14 11a-noon Bible Study	15	16 6:30p Choir Practice	17	18 7:00am Spring Sale
19 10a Worship "Strengthen the Church" Offering	20	21 11a-noon Bible Study	22	23 6:30p Choir Practice	24	25
26 10a Worship	27	28 11a-noon Bible Study	29	30 1-6 p Blood Bank 6:30p Choir Practice		

COUNTERS

May 5 Tom Wilkison & Beverly Shelly
May 12 Robin Burton & Kathy Kelly
May 19 Sherry Hoefler & Bill Bair

May 26 Tom Wilkison & Beverly Shelly

CHANCEL

May 5 & 12—WHITE
May 19—Pentecost—RED
May 26—Trinity Sunday—GREEN



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IT'S A "SPRING SALE
(RAIN OR SHINE)
Immanuel United Church of Christ
Saturday, May 18, 2024
Sale starts at 7:00am
Tables available: \$10.00
Call to reserve your sale table!
Or to place an order for food
410-228-5167 or murphy2a@comcast.net
Enjoy soup, chicken salad
Bake table (contributions needed)