

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

5401 White Hall Road • Cambridge, Maryland 21613 • 410-228-4640



October 2010



OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The heart of our life together...

10:00 a.m. Sundays: We gather for worship in the Sanctuary, with The Rev. Anne Swallow Gillis preaching through the month. Children over age 5 join in the whole service on the first and third Sundays.

October 3 – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost. World Communion and Neighbors in Need Sunday. We celebrate our oneness with Christians throughout the world, in this annual observance of our unity in Christ, and the receiving of our annual Neighbors in Need offering (see p. 5 for more information). Scripture passages from the Revised Common Lectionary include Lamentations 3:19-26; Psalm 137; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; and Luke 17:5-10. Children join us for the whole service and may partake in Communion as their parents wish.

October 10 – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost. Scripture passages for this week include Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7; Psalm 66:1-12; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; and Luke 17:11-19. Children join us through the Children's Story and then leave for Children's Church in Fellowship Hall.

October 17 – Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost and Bible Sunday. We highlight the unique role of Holy Scripture in our tradition and lives on this day, by inviting worshippers to bring a copy of a family or personal Bible to grace our Sanctuary Altar. We will present a copy of the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible to each of our third graders. Scripture texts include Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 119:97-104; 2 Timothy 3:13-4:5; and Luke 18:1-8. Children join us for the whole service.

October 24 – Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost. We welcome The Rev. Dr. John Deckenback, Conference Minister for the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ, to join us in affirming our "Interim Covenant" with our new interim pastor. Scripture passages are Sirach 35:12-17; Psalm 84:1-7; 2 Timothy 4:6-8; and Luke 18:9-14.

October 31 – Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost and Reformation Sunday. On this day in 1517, a young priest nailed 95 protest statements to the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. In challenging what he believed to be objectionable teachings and practices of the Church, Martin Luther's actions led to the Protestant Reformation and the eventual formation of our own denomination, the United Church of Christ. We will explore how the Reformation idea of "the church reformed, and always re-forming" might guide our interim time together. Scripture passages include Isaiah 1:10-17; Psalm 32:1-7; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 and Luke 19:1-10. Children join us through the Children's Story and then leave for a Halloween activity in Fellowship Hall.

Immanuel United Church of Christ
e-mail: immanuelucc@bcctv.net
Website: immanuelucc.com
Church office phone 410-228-4640
Parsonage phone: 410-221-0436

The Rev. Anne Swallow Gillis, Interim Pastor
Janice Haller, Church Office Secretary
J. Curtis White, Choir Director/Organist
Lynne Breil, Pianist
Lisa Dixon, Custodian

As I described in my first sermon on August 22nd, the transition period between settled pastors can be both an exciting and an unsettling time for any congregation. I will not be your permanent pastor, yet I will be with you and lead you through a significant time in the life of this congregation. Your many fruitful years with your former pastor, The Rev. Joan Evans, has clearly brought you to a place of stability and fruitfulness as a congregation. You have strong lay leadership, beloved liturgical traditions, an expansive new physical plant, a beautifully refurbished parsonage, and considerable mission outreach to your community and beyond. But there is often a pervasive sense of loss, uncertainty and disorientation when a long-time pastor leaves a church, even if her retirement makes perfect sense. In such times, we yearn for connections that will support and sustain us. In this interim period I invite us to sink into the resources of our faith for these ties. We will find them as we soak in the scriptures together, as we deepen our individual prayer lives and keep an eye on the needs of the world around us.

On that first Sunday together last month, we considered the Biblical story of Jesus' healing the woman who was unable to stand straight. "You are set free, unbound, untied," he told her. Reflecting on ties that both bind us together positively and those that can tie us up, I suggested that an interim period can be an opportunity for a congregation to consider both. This can be a time of discovery for all of us, as we explore where God is already at work in your midst. Many of you will have different experiences to share when it comes to being part of Immanuel Church. This church has experienced both blessings and challenges through the years. My hope is that during our time together, we can provide numerous opportunities in which people can share their variety of perspectives and hopes for Immanuel's future.

Because my interim contracts always state that I will not be a candidate for the permanent position, I have found that the interim time does not involve the congregation and me "wooing" one another. In my other interims, this freed us to "speak the truth in love" about what has been and what might be in the church. It can provide a unique opportunity for us all to honestly reflect, openly pray and perhaps re-discover what Immanuel United Church of Christ can offer to this community. What beliefs and values make this church unique and are needed for the well-being of the wider community? How might these ministries be strengthened and expanded in the years ahead? It will be only after this time of discovery, over a period of months, that we will be ready to consider what kind of settled pastoral leadership you will need to help you do these ministries. Through my experience as an intentional interim, I have found that only after such an extended period of prayerful self-study and discovery, is a congregation ready to begin its search for a new settled pastor.

In a sense, we know the beginning and the ending of our journey together, but we do not know what God will call forth from us in this next period of ministry together. Let's find out together! Join us in worship as often as you can during this interim time; it will keep us focused on the spirit of the Living Christ in our midst, and give us inspiration and energy for the discovery work ahead. I urge you to participate in upcoming small group discussions where we can explore Immanuel's future together. Continue supporting the church financially, not just to meet a budget, but in thanksgiving for the blessings in your lives. I invite you to be patient with the interim process and honest with me about how you experience my leadership. Know that I am here with you, with gratitude and hopefulness, for all that we will experience in our interim work together.

In ministry with you,

Anne



OKTOBERFEST DINNER

Immanuel United Church of Christ
5401 White Hall Road & Rt. 50
Cambridge, Maryland
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2010
4:30 - 8 p.m.

Adults: \$18 (13 years and above)

Children: \$ 8 (4 to 12 years)

Children 3 years and under 3 - Free

Join the fun at Immanuel United Church of Christ
Authentic German Food and Music!

Desserts extra

For tickets, please contact Beverly Shelly at 410-228-4890

Helping Children

The entire history of Hoffman Homes for Youth is marked by a spirit of love and service to children. It was in this spirit, in 1910, that George and Agnes Hoffman donated 193 acres of prime Pennsylvania farm land to the United Church of Christ (UCC), to be used as an orphanage. The couple had no children of their own, but they felt moved by the plight of homeless children.

Since 1990, their primary mission has been to provide comprehensive psychiatric care, treatment, and education to emotionally and behaviorally troubled children and their families. Hoffman Homes for Youth is committed to providing services that are cost effective and responsive to the unique needs of each child. Hoffman Homes for Youth treats the needs of boys and girls ages 6 to 18 who have a major mental health diagnosis. The residential treatment program is licensed to provide behavioral and cognitive therapy, physical health care services, and a safe and comfortable home to 141 children on its campus.

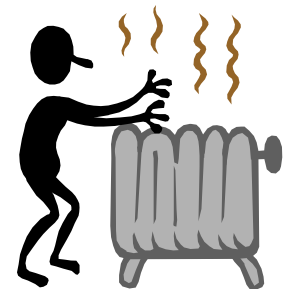
Their success rate: 82% of the children discharged in 2009 met their treatment goals while at Hoffman Homes for Youth and were successfully discharged. Despite the changes in the type of child served at Hoffman Homes for Youth, the spirit of love and service to children has remained constant since 1910.

The **Thank Offering** will be received on Sunday (November 21st), which will be sent to Hoffman Homes for Youth. The offering boxes are available now in the Narthex. Everyone can participate...Everyone has blessings for which they are thankful! Every gift helps a troubled child. Again this year, as an extra gift to Hoffman Homes for Youth, Beverly Shelly will be selling a quality selection of nuts. **Nuts** available are: Pecan Halves; Light Walnuts; Black Walnuts; Deluxe Mix; Cashews; Praline Pecans; **Chocolate coated** items are: Cashews; Almonds; Raisins; Peanuts; Dark Chocolate Bridge Mix; and Mint Melt-A-Ways. Also available: Almond Cranberry Granola and gummy bears.. Please see Beverly Shelly after church or call 410-228-4890 (Cecille's Beauty Salon, Inc.) or 410-228-7192 (home) to place your order.

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PREPARE FOR WINTER, NOW!

It is time to start thinking about
**PRE-PAID FUEL FOR THE 2010 – 2011
HEATING SEASON**
GOAL: \$7,800



Please make your check payable to Immanuel UCC
Memo – “Pre-Paid Fuel”
Could you help us warm the church? Thank you.

RETIRING OUR DEBT

One area that we need to put emphasis on is our debt retirement. The balance on the church mortgage as of September 1, 2010 is: \$599,765.00. In addition, the debt on the parsonage as of September 1, 2010 is \$167,376.53. As much as possible, any additional funds marked for "Debt Reduction" will be used to pay on the principal, therefore, reducing the amount of interest we will be paying over the life of the loan. Your continued support toward our debt reduction will be greatly appreciated. *(Philip Jackson, Council President)*

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Neighbors in Need - YOU CAN HELP!

The Neighbors in Need (NIN) offering supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

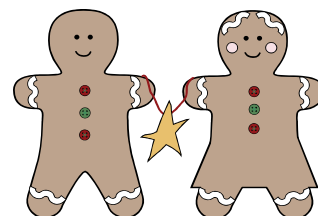


Neighbors in Need helps make another world possible. It needs your support. And remember, contributions to Neighbors in Need can be made on-line at any time at: www.ucc.org/nin. **Your** generous **gifts** will make a difference in someone's life. Thank you for caring!

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CHRISTMAS BAZAAR - November 20, 2010

The holidays are not that far away and plans are being prepared for our Christmas Bazaar. If you are thinking about "Fall House Cleaning", that would be a great time to set aside Christmas related items for our sale--all items must be in good shape. We are also planning something new this year--"Silent Action" baskets, such as Christmas Decorations, Christmas Baking, Hunting items, and Children's Toys, so things will also be needed for those baskets. Homemade crafts and canned goods will be welcomed additions to our sale. As always, we will have our chicken salad, soups and baked goods, in addition to our "Country Store". We will need helpers and sign-up sheets will be placed in the Narthex. Please mark this date on your calendars and come out to either help or support our Bazaar, we always have a lot of fun. If you have any questions, please call Jean Haddaway 410-228-3869 or Diane Murphy 410-228-5167.



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BABY NEWS

Melissa and Dennis Elzey welcomed their daughter, Phoebe Reese, on August 23, 2010. Phoebe is the granddaughter of Roger and Carole Segar.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

The Christian Education Board, under the leadership of Tammy Luthy, along with Pastor Anne, has been exploring ways to strengthen our ministry with children, youth and their families. Beginning in October, we will make a few changes and some additions to our Sunday programming, which hopefully will deepen our young people's sense of connection with God, with the living Christian tradition and with the wider community of Immanuel Church. At the end of the Christmas season in early January, we will work with the Spiritual Council and the Church Council to review these new offerings.

9:00 – 9:50 am – We will continue with the long-standing Immanuel tradition of an Education Hour before worship on Sundays:

Children 5 and under: Childcare and lesson with Tammy Luthy.

Children in grades K, 1, 2: Sunday School with Robin Moore.

Children in grades 3, 4, 5: Sunday School with Donna Schnoor.

Pre-teens in grades 6, 7, 8: Sunday School with Patti Cannon.

Teens in grades 9, 10, 11, 12: Sunday School with Bill Malkus.

Adults:

- * On-going Bible Study on the Book of Psalms led by Jean Haddaway.
- * Discussion Group on contemporary issues of faith, often using a recent "Religious and Ethics" program from PBS.
- * A new "Parenting and Our Faith" group led by Pastor Anne during October.

10:00 am - Worship in the Sanctuary.

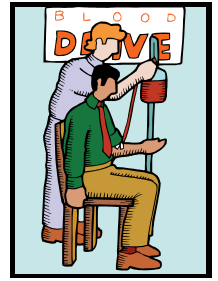
Starting in October, we will be inviting the children to join us for the entire service two times a month (first and third Sundays). During worship, Pastor Anne will be including hymns and songs that are singable for all ages, and occasionally do a "story-sermon for all ages" in place of the Children's Story and regular adult sermon.

On the other 2 or 3 Sundays in the month, children will come to worship for the first 15 minutes and then leave for Children's Church in Fellowship Hall, following Pastor Anne's Children's Story. We thank Susie Creighton guiding the children in worship again this year. Childcare in the nursery will be provided for children 5 and under through the whole service (no older children, please).

- October 3 – Children join us at 10:00 am for the entire worship service. They are welcome to participate in Holy Communion, if their parents so chose.
- October 10 – Children join us for the first portion of worship, then attend Children's Church in Fellowship Hall.
- October 17 – BIBLE SUNDAY – Children will join us for the entire worship service, during which there will be a special emphasis on the role of Holy Scripture in our lives as Christians. All worshippers are invited to bring a family or personal Bible to place on the altar, in celebration of God's Word in our lives. We will also present a copy of the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible to each third grader.
- October 25 – Children join us for the first portion of worship, then attend Children's Church in Fellowship Hall.
- October 31 – Children join us for the first portion of worship, then go to Fellowship Hall for pumpkin decorating and snacks.

IMMANUEL BLOOD BANK GROUP

Immanuel has a membership plan with the Blood Bank of Delmarva to offer special coverage to you and your family. *By becoming a Blood Bank member you are not only supporting the community blood supply, but you, your spouse, and tax dependents will be covered for the cost of blood replacement at any hospital in the country.*



The annual membership fee is just \$5 a year, or \$2 for those 70 and older. Blood Bank members above 70 are not required to donate blood. You do **not** have to be a member of the church to belong to our Blood Bank group. Members under 70 are asked to do one of the following shortly after joining to fulfill their membership obligation:

- 1) Give blood yourself, or
- 2) Have someone else give blood for you, or
- 3) Pay \$30 to replace a unit of blood.

Members are asked to do one of the above obligations every 18-20 months. The donation site in Cambridge is presently St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Donation hours go into the early evening. Enrollment forms are available from Keith Malkus. **Please return your membership form to Keith Malkus by September 26, 2010.**

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ACOLTYES

Spiritual Council is updating the acolyte schedule. Traditionally, 10 through 13 year-olds serve as acolytes in Sunday worship services. Please contact the church office with the names of any young people who should be added to that list. It would be a pleasure to see some of these youths assisting in worship!