

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

IMMANUEL IMAGES

September 2011



September Worship Schedule

Sunday mornings - The heart of our life together

8:45 Nursery Care begins (5 & under)

9:00 Sunday School for all ages

10:00 Worship for all ages, followed by refreshments

10:15 Children's Program (2nd and 4th Sundays)

*Our Vision for Immanuel
United Church of Christ:*

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

*(Adopted by the Church
Council, June 1, 2011)*

September 4, the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Rev. Linda McFadden will be our guest pastor, assisted by members of our Spiritual Council. Our Interim Pastor Anne Swallow Gillis will be on vacation, returning September 6.

September 11, the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

On this tenth anniversary of September 11, we will remember the attacks on our nation that forever changed our world. Through prayer, a specially selected offering by our Sanctuary Choir, hymns and scripture reflections, we will honor both service and sacrifice during our time of worship. Our intent is to reverently encourage healing and a renewed sense of hope, as we face the ongoing challenges of living together in a diverse world. Holy Communion will be celebrated; scripture passages include Genesis 50:15-21, Psalm 103 and Matthew 18:21-25. The Rev. Anne Swallow Gillis, preaching.

September 18, the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our scripture texts are Jonah 3:10-4:11, Philippians 1:21-30, Psalm 145 and Matthew 20:1-16. Worship will include a dedication of our Sunday School teachers for this new year. A brief Congregational Meeting will immediately follow worship, and then we will move into our Church Picnic (see inside newsletter for details on both). The Rev. Anne Swallow Gillis, preaching.

September 25, the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our scripture texts include Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32, Philippians 2:1-13, Psalm 25:1-9 and Matthew 21:23-32. We also plan to receive a group of New Members. The Rev. Anne Swallow Gillis, preaching.

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From the Interim Pastor

The Rev. Anne Swallow Gillis

*“For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven.”*
(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

I write to you just before leaving on my summer vacation, which you have graciously provided for as part of my ministerial contract with you as your Interim Pastor. My husband and I will travel to northern Minnesota, to reconnect with our community, home UCC congregation, and property on the north shore of Lake Superior. Through my years of ministry, I have learned that the rhythm of work and rest, action and reflection, is crucial to my well-being and the integrity of my pastoral work. So, I have packed my writing journal, several novels, a box of water-colors, swim suit and hiking shoes, as all of these associated activities, along with leisurely meal conversations with friends, always help rejuvenate both my body and spirit.

The writer of Ecclesiastes recognized this ancient wisdom of the rhythm of life. As one of my colleagues has noted, we rarely have “balance” in our hectic lives. But we can claim a rhythm, and commit ourselves a sustaining movement between the flurry of action and the respite of Sabbath time. Part of why I find Sunday worship to be so important is that it regularly offers a different “season” and perspective to my week. The hymns, prayers and scripture readings all immerse me in a different perspective than the world’s everyday focus on possessions, security and power. Every Sunday among you, in the midst of singing and silence and breaking of bread, I learn a bit more about God and a bit more about myself.

Throughout this summer and now into the fall, we have been following the liturgical season called “Ordinary Time.” If we think about the Church Year as revolving around the two focused events of Jesus’ Birth and then Jesus’ Death and Resurrection, then “Ordinary Time” is the period when we contemplate the meaning of these crucial events of our faith. Our celebrations of Advent/Christmas and then Lent/Easter are intense. The season following each of these feasts invites us to immerse ourselves in the mysteries of our faith, during quieter, un-feast like “ordinary” days. As Joan Chittister has written in *The Liturgical Year: The Spiraling Adventure of the Spiritual Life*, these slow, reflective times enable us to “live the life of Jesus day after day until finally one day it becomes our own.”

This portion of “Ordinary Time” before Advent/Christmas will be a time of deepening our life together as a church. The Pastoral Search Committee will begin its work of searching for a new settled pastor. The new Confirmation Class invite 7th and 8th graders to join me in a journey of learning to be Jesus’ disciples. I will be creating several small group opportunities for adults to deepen their prayer lives and sense of connection with God. We will expand the ways we reach out to others in need. During this second year of our interim period together, may we continue to grow as faithful disciples. May the rhythm of both the seasons and our liturgical year nourish and sustain us.

In ministry with you,
Anne

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

RECENT ACTIONS BY THE CHURCH COUNCIL (August 17, 2011 Meeting)

The Council accepted a proposal presented by Patti Cannon and Helen Krom to begin an outreach to families affected by drug addiction, by beginning a regular **Nar-Anon Meeting here at Immanuel**. Nar-Anon is a peer-led support group for family and friends of people addicted to drugs, and is based on the same 12-step model of recovery as Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon. Patti will be the contact person, and she and/or Helen will be present to open and close the building. The group will begin meeting in the fall, on the same night as the Church Council. We welcome this opportunity to live out part of our new mission statement: “...we open our doors to all and reach out to those in need.”

The Council agreed to **extend our Interim Pastor Anne Swallow Gillis’ “Interim Ministry Contract”** which had expired on August 16. In this second year together, either the congregation or Anne will be able to give 90 days notice of ending our contract together. Her compensation will stay the same in this next year, with the exception of a slight increase in mileage reimbursement, to meet new IRS guidelines.

After considerable, careful discussion and prayer concerning the 12 nominations that had been submitted as possible candidates to the Pastoral Search Committee, the **Council approved a group of 8 active church members to lead the search for a new Pastor**. They are: **Keith Malkus, Leslie Tolley, Marilyn Luthy, Bill Malkus, Susie Creighton, Jack Breil, Tammy Luthy and Scott Dodson**. The Council extends its appreciation to all those who agreed to put their names forward for consideration. The Council will present this total slate to the membership at a special **Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 18, immediately following worship**. The congregation will vote “yes” or “no” on the whole slate, not on particular names. The Pastoral Search Committee will begin their work immediately, meeting initially with our Conference Minister, The Rev. John Deckenback, to learn more about the process, and to choose their own chairperson. Pastor Anne will serve in a consulting role only with this group, and will remove herself from their work once specific pastoral candidates are being discussed. As per her Interim Ministry Contract, she will not be a candidate for the permanent Pastor’s position.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

“Where Does My Money Go?”

If you look at the financial secretary’s report from last year’s congregational meeting (available in the church office), you will see that the congregation gave to over 30 different categories. Most of the categories are self explanatory.



If you buy something for the church, please give me the receipt so I can put it on your annual giving statement. Supplies/Hospitality is the category used for this. It is very important that your offering envelope is marked with where you want your offering to go. If the envelope is not marked, everything goes into the General Fund (which covers our staff salaries, building expenses, some program expenses, etc). Loose checks, unless marked, go to this Fund. All loose bills and coins in the collection plates are divided, with 75% to the General Fund and 25% to benevolences. (You can also designate for local benevolences or for wider world benevolences through our denominational offering of Our Church World Service.) Extra offerings towards paying down our building mortgage can also be made; simply designate this on your envelope or check.

You can support our Sunday School programs (curriculum and supplies for both our weekly classes and our summer Vacation Bible School) via the worship offering, by marking the amount on your offering “for Sunday School.” I will give this to the Sunday School treasurer.

And remember, please use your offering envelope every Sunday! Let the church office know if you would like envelopes. –*Sandy Dodson, Financial Secretary.*

“Pre-paid Fuel”

Our church treasurer, Diana Jackson, reminds us that it is time to start thinking about our pre-paid fuel account. In anticipation of a chilly winter, our goal for the 2011-2012 heating season is \$8,500. Please make your check payable to Immanuel UCC and note in the memo line “Pre-paid fuel”.



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

RECENT NEWS FROM HABITAT CHOPTANK:

We continue our partnership with Habitat for Humanity Choptank, with both financial contributions raised at our annual Mission Breakfast, and now with participating in their local builds. On August 13, Tom Wilkison, Haylee Tyler, Beau MacSorley, Robin Moore and Pastor Anne worked at a new site at 439 High Street, framing a wall and pounding a lot of nails. They were sustained by Calvin Malkus' generous contribution of bottled water and donuts!

Upcoming Build Dates for us will be:

- Saturday, September 24 – 9 am to noon – 439 High St.
- Saturday, October 8 - 9 am to noon – 439 High St.
- Saturday, November 12 – 9 am to noon – 439 High St.

Please sign-up in the church office, or on the clipboard at Coffee hour on Sundays.

A recent update from Habitat Choptank describes the organization's goal of completing 25 houses in 5 years: "If you are counting, we have 22 to go. Please be sure to encourage anyone living and working in Dorchester and Talbot Counties who needs a decent, affordable home to contact Habitat Choptank. We also need your prayers, volunteer work and financial support if we are to achieve our goal." Contact their main office at (410) 476-3204 if you know someone who might benefit from this program. For more information on Habitat for Humanity, view their website: www.habitatchoptank.org

Another way to volunteer, especially if you are not up to pounding nails, is to consider helping with The ReStore at 8648 Commerce Drive in Easton. The ReStore resells donated building supplies at low cost to benefit the Habitat projects. The jobs are duties such as receiving and inventorying donations, sales/customer relations, cashier, etc. These positions are very different from house building but are no less important. If anything in the way of retailing is of interest to you, the ReStore has volunteer orientation the 3rd Wednesday every month at 10a.m and 5:30p.m. Call (410) 820-6186 for more information.



Pictures of volunteers on the Habitat Build, Saturday, August 13, 2011

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED SCHOOL SUPPLIES:



Along with our “Blessing of the Backpacks,” we commissioned a huge pile of donated school supplies during Sunday worship on August 22. We are sending supplies to the following schools this year, and they will be distributed by the Guidance Counselors to young people in need: Elementary Schools of Sandy Hill, Choptank, Maple, Warwick, Hurlock, Vienna and South Dorchester; Middle Schools of Mace’s Lane and North Dorchester.

OUR GRATEFULNESS AND THANKS TO ALL THE TEENS AND ADULTS WHO HELPED MAKE VBS HAPPEN THIS YEAR!

Tammy Luthy and Susie Creighton – overall coordination and prep
CR Newman and Leslie Tolley – daily skits and song leaders
Ruth Bradley and Deana Kozak– Bible story tellers
Marianna Spies, Harrison Spies, Mitchell McDonald – wild games leaders
Robin Moore and Lynn-Malkus Lyons – creative craft directors and photos
Dinner and snack team – led by Claudia McDonald, with Marilyn Luthy,
Danny Luthy, Dennis Katulis, John Dodson, Jean Haddaway,
Donna Campbell, Marlene Waldis
Crew leaders and helpers – Stephanie Dixon, Jan Strain, Mitch Simmons, Emily Peel, Sandy Dodson, Hannah McDonald, Julia Newman, Christy Ashton, Brooke Cabacieros, Steven Katulis, Josh Katulis, Suzie Katulis, Lynn Nossick, Leslie Meilhammer, Becky Dodson, Emily Jackson, Tracie Moore, Charlotte Frase, Jocelyn Spies, Sean O’Connor, Nick Lewis

Many of these people were multi-tasking throughout the week, and we may have missed a few folks who have not been named. But everyone pitched in with such joy and enthusiasm, that I am truly amazed. The food was delicious, the sets and room decorations were truly inspiring. Our leaders guided the children through each daily program with attentiveness and love. Crawling inside the “belly of the whale” with three different groups of children was my favorite part! This wonderful outreach work introduced a number of new children and families to our congregation. Perhaps you would like to be part of the fun next summer?

-Pastor Anne



ABOUT OUR UPCOMING CONFIRMATION CLASS

It is always a delight to begin a new Confirmation Class with a group of middle-school age young people. This year's class will start during September and meet weekly. (We will set the day of the week after the youth have their new school and sports schedules!)

Each pastor teaches Confirmation somewhat differently. I have found through the years that a creative class experience is less about learning a lot of information and is more about faith formation. I present a less academic and cognitive approach than traditional classes that focused on learning Bible facts and memorizing certain doctrines. My interest is in providing an experiential and engaging process that helps young people know and follow Jesus, instead of just "knowing about" Jesus and the Bible.

Confirmation is a journey of discipleship, where we are equipping and empowering young people to become disciples of Jesus. We invite them to explore the lifestyle, beliefs and values of such discipleship in the modern world. Part of this includes learning how to read the Bible and understand the basic elements of Christian faith. We also facilitate their integration into this particular faith community as a teenager and future adult, by encouraging them to help with Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, with worship leadership, and committee work and projects.

But a larger part of their learning is working in close proximity with older Christians. I will invite our youth to be connected with a specific church member who will serve as a guide or mentor for the youth. These adult mentors will join in some of our class sessions, will come with us when we visit other faith communities and do service projects, and they will meet individually with their mentee on occasion. Perhaps you would be interested in serving in such a way? Please let me know as soon as possible. Mentors do not need to be "perfect Christians." You simply need to be willing to allow a young person to get to know them, as the mentors themselves attempt to live as Jesus' disciples. Many adults have found that becoming a Confirmation Mentor is a marvelous way of exploring and deepening one's own walk with Jesus.

Let me know if you have young family members in 7th or 8th grade who would like to be part of the 2011-2012 Confirmation Class. We will confirm those who complete the program on Pentecost Sunday in May. Meanwhile, keep the young people, their potential mentors and their pastor in your prayers!

-Pastor Anne Swallow Gillis

UPCOMING EVENTS



OKTOBERFEST at Immanuel United Church of Christ will be held on Saturday, October 22nd. 4:30 p.m. German Dinner - Carry Outs Available. Look for more information in our October newsletter.

TALENT SHOW is back on our horizon. Sunday, October 9th. More details to follow but sign up sheet is now available in the Narthex if you are interested in sharing your talent.



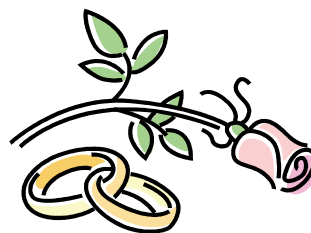
SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Members celebrating September Birthdays

Diana Jackson	9/3
Amanda Leonard	9/7
Andrew Albert	9/8
Virginia Lyons	9/10
Lyndsey Lyons	9/11
Amy Dodson	9/12
Claudia McDonald	9/13
Nancy Spicer	9/14
Taylor Middleton	9/14
Terry Malkus	9/20
Jock Luthy	9/21
Jason Segar	9/26
Christy Ashton	9/28
Sherry Hofer	9/30

September Anniversaries

Susan & Kenny Collins	9/2
Donna & Max Schnoor	9/15
Charlotte & Chuck Hanson	9/17
Debbie & Don Robbins	9/26
Nicholas & Stephanie Barnett	9/29



Celebrate our Joy

WELCOME OUR NEWEST ARRIVAL

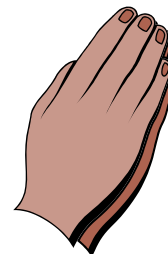


A daughter, Emma Leigh, born on August 2 to Courtney & Harold Travers. Congratulations!

IMMANUEL PRAYER LIST: *You are invited to remember these people in prayer.*

Members of Immanuel:

Grace Louise ADKINS, at Mallard Bay
Andrew ALBERT, coping with immune system problems, son of Philip & Barbara Albert
Jackson BRADLEY, receiving chemo for a brain tumor, son of Brian & Jennifer Burton
Dorothy BURTON at home
Marilyn CUSICK, facing health challenges at home
Melissa ELZEY, recovering from complications with a broken leg & blood clot
Bill FOXWELL, facing health challenges
Chris FOXWELL, undergoing treatment for breast cancer
Bill GIESE, recovering from surgery (son-in-law of Helen Malkus)
Virginia LYONS, at Chesapeake Woods
Ray SHELLY, respiratory problems
Courtney Burton TRAVERS and husband, Harold, on the birth of their baby, Emma Leigh, on August 2



Friends of Immanuel Church:

Betty ABBOTT, Pat Creighton's step-mother, at Chesapeake Woods
Kim BROHAWN, granddaughter of Marilyn Cusick, facing MS
Ken BURGWIN, beginning cancer treatment, friend of Kim & Dave Leonard and Don & Doris Rae
Mike CHEESMAN, health concerns, friend of Beverly Shelly
Caryl DALTON, friend of Joyce Wise and Frank Spillman, health issues under Hospice Care
Debra DUNHAM, friend of Debi Book, treatment for cancer
Jack DUNHAM, friend of Debi Book, with thankfulness for being "cancer free"
William ELLIOTT, friend of Terry & Bill Malkus, health issues
Kenny ELZEY, Julia Newman's father, at Chesapeake Woods
Savannah MESSICK, grandchild of Jimmy Messick; friend of Robbins and Jones family, being treated for cancer
Dot MORGAN, Lou Jones' aunt, health issues
Alison PICKARD, friend of Lynne Browne & Terry Melius, radiation for cancer
Rosa PRITCHETT, at Chesapeake Woods, mother of Peggy MacLauchlan
Elwood ROSENCRANCE, Lou Jones' father, health issues
John WHITE, recovering from surgery, father of Curtis White

Members Serving in Our Armed Forces:

Jimmy WINDSOR, U.S. Army

(Prayer List Continued)

Friends Serving in Our Armed Forces:

Christopher ANTENEN, Captain, U. S. Air Force flying planes in and out of Iraq, grand-nephew of Jean Haddaway

Michael BRAMBLE, U. S. Army - Germany, nephew of Wallace Dodson
And Joyce Malik

Thomas JANUSZ, U. S. Army, friend of Joyce Wise and Frank Spillman
wounded in action in Afghanistan in early April

David MUELLER, Captain U. S. Air Force stationed in Afghanistan,
grand-nephew of Jean Haddaway

Blake TURNER, U.S. Marine Corp, nephew of Robin Moore

Cody TURNER, U.S. Marine Corp, nephew of Robin Moore

Kregory TYLER, U.S. Navy, San Diego, serving aboard the aircraft carrier,
USS John C. Stennis, grandson of Janice Haller & Don & Patsy Creighton

Ruth WILSON, U. S. Navy, friend of Josh Dodson & Nicholas Barnett

We will include service members when we have information on their connection to members of our congregation and branch of service.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE NEW TUTORING PROGRAM THIS FALL:

You can make a huge difference in a young child's life by offering just two _ hour sessions a week, helping a kindergartener, first or second grader with their reading. You choice of elementary schools and your choice of date/times. Contact Marlene Waldis at (443) 521-5237 for more information.

CONSIDER A CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPECIAL FUNDS TO HELP THE ANDREW ALBERT AND JACKSON BRADLEY FAMILIES: Philip and Barbara Albert (Andrew's dad and mom) and Brian and Jennifer Burton (Jackson's step-dad and mom) are needing our support as they accompany their sons through ongoing medical treatments for serious illnesses. Any financial aid will help greatly in their travel and household expenses during this trying time for all of them. Gifts can be placed in a pew envelope, marked "Andrew's Fund" or "Jackson's Fund" and put in the offering plate, or send to the church office. So far, \$1334 has been received this summer for Andrew Albert, and \$1448 For Jackson Bradley. We also thank all the VBS families for contributing over \$950 of these combined funds.

PREPARE FOR WINTER, NOW!

**It is time to start thinking about
PRE-PAID FUEL FOR THE 2011 – 2012
HEATING SEASON GOAL: \$8,500**



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



**ALL CHURCH PICNIC
AT IMMANUEL UCC
Sunday, September 18, after worship
Bring a dish to share,
Hot Dogs, Hamburgers on the grill
Cold Drinks provided... Bingo, Games & Fellowship!
Remember, Bring a Yard Chair and crab knife
See you there!**