



THE CHIMES

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1905 Edmondson Avenue • Catonsville, Maryland 21228

PHONE: (410) 744-5014 • E-MAIL: welcome@immanuelucc21228.org • WEB: immanuelucc21228.org

November 2015

The Consistory Officers

President

Karl Briers

Vice President

Steve DiPaula

Treasurer

Bryan Holley

Assistant Treasurer

Larry Dunham

Financial Secretary

Steve DiPaula

Asst. Financial Secretary

Tyleshia Monroe

Diana Voelkel

Secretary

Kineta Rotan

Comptroller

Les Luco

The Consistory Elders

Elizabeth de Mozenette

Steve DiPaula

Steve Schreiner

The Consistory Deacons

Lori Hamilton

Tyleshia Monroe

Diana Voelkel

Kineta Rotan

Larry Dunham

Karl Briers

Ministers

All Members

Ministers of Music

Les Luco

Marjay Contwor

Nevin Oklumfor

Administrative Assistant

Lisa Ianuzzi

Custodian

Lori Hamilton

“Reflections”

As November begins, it seems like the calendars of the United States get really confused. Before Halloween even has a chance to get started, Christmas decorations are pushing pumpkins to the sale shelves. The Pilgrims are being faced down by elves and snowmen. The church calendar is easier to keep up with, but it does present some pressing challenges. As the paraments shift from green to the purple days of Advent, we need all hands on deck!

The Charity Yard Sale is hours away and we have a lot of stuff to move, sort, price and sell. Once again, the proceeds will be dedicated to the mission projects we support. Winter is quickly approaching and the guys at the Westside Men's Shelter could use another "Undies Sunday!" Thanks to some of our wider church friends in the Chesapeake Association, we're establishing contacts with new hands-on mission outreach. I'm waiting for a response from The Baltimore Station Men's Shelter now. It's a program to help homeless vets get their lives back. I'll keep you posted.

Our friends at the Catonsville Cooperative Market have been busy stripping out the old cabinets and plumbing fixtures in the kitchen. The renovation work will enable them to broaden the scope of their work and receive a permit from the Health Department. When they reach that goal, the kitchen will need an official blessing from us! In the meantime, the unsold produce has been distributed among some of our members, the Westside Men's Shelter and one of our large support groups. I'm really proud of the growing relationship we share! Keep up the good work, Market People!

Thanks to Bryan Holley, we have a great picture of the worldwide outreach that Immanuel truly has. Check out all of the "thank you" letters we've received this year! If you've ever wondered where your tithes and offerings actually go, just look at the display in the Fireside Room. Each and every gift helps us do a whole lot more than just pay bills. You provide housing for our enabled Immanuel UCC to continue serving and working for justice and peace.

Continued on next page

I know each and every November, we spend time with spread sheets and a lot of red and black numbers. We wonder how and where the next year will find us. I'll tell you. We're here and God is far from being through with us. Trust me, if I thought Immanuel was sinking, I would tell you. We aren't. But we do have some significant challenges. So, when the 2015 Annual Report is completed and distributed, I invite you to spend some time with a document I began in 2014 and revised this year: the "Big Picture 2015." It will serve as my report for this year. So, please plan to be a part of our future and participate in the Annual Meeting on Nov. 22nd.

There's no way to know how many lives you've helped, how many fragmented places restored or broken dreams revived. As the legal proceedings begin in the days ahead, Baltimore is going to need a lot of prayer, understanding and compassion. I just know that when Immanuel is needed, we'll answer with our best. So, begin to pray without ceasing. The eyes of the nation will be upon us once again, and this time, more of God's people will be ready.

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving! And thank you for all you've done and shared this year!

Peace...

Rev Bev

*"When we long for life without difficulties, remind us that oaks grow strong in contrary winds and diamonds are made under pressure."
~ Peter Marshall*

Upcoming Events

November 7 – Annual Yard Sale

November 8 – Consistory

November 22 – Annual Congregational Meeting

November 26 – Thanksgiving

November 29 – First Sunday in Advent



Immanuel Happenings

The Annual Meeting has been changes to November 22! At the November Annual Meeting there will be a series of proposed changes to the By-Laws. While the number of changes may appear large the impact should be rather modest. The bulk of the changes are to make the By-Laws conform to how we actually do business. There are a few copies of the proposed changes on the table in the hall. You can also access electronic copies on the church website on the Sermons and Other Documents page. [Link to By-Laws](#)

The **Annual Yard Sale** will be held November 7th from 9AM to 1PM. We can always use your help for the yard sale on Saturday. Also, please drop by to help set up on Wednesday Nov 4th at 6:30 PM and Thursday Nov 5th at 9 AM.

On the Friday evening and Saturday morning before the first Sunday in Advent **we decorate the church**. This will help get you in the Christmas spirit!

CEFM Food Donations – When you give please take a look at the most needed items – [LINK](#).

November Birthdays

06 – Leslie Dunham 12 – Jill Boyd
16 – Janet Leak 17 – Seth Kramer
19 – Isaac Oliver 21 – Nancy Taylor



Good News - UCC and Social Justice

We tend to hear mostly bad news so I am glad to pass along some of the good stuff this month.

Curbing Excessive Phone Charges

The media justice ministry of the United Church of Christ is celebrating a hard-fought victory. The Office of Communication, Inc. (OC Inc.) rallied on Thursday, Oct. 22, outside the offices of the Federal Communications Commission as it adopted rules that will rein in the predatory prison phone industry.

The move is a victory for social justice advocates who pushed for industry changes, and for millions of families of incarcerated persons who have struggled to connect with their loved ones. ([Link to the Full Article](#))

Bipartisan Sentencing Reform

We do not hear about many bipartisan success stories in congress. The Senate Judiciary Committee voted to approve the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2015. The bill will reduce mandatory sentencing for some offenses, as well as some other provisions. (Rev Deckenback sent out a notice about the proposed law and said that it "is in keeping with the spirit of our resolution". The Central Atlantic Conference was a sponsor of this summer's UCC General Synod resolution entitled "Dismantling the New Jim Crow".)

The War on Drugs: A New Paradigm - Rehabilitation Not Incarceration

On Friday November 13th from 10 AM to noon at the Central Atlantic Conference Offices the Rev. Alexander E. Sharp, Executive Director of Clergy for a New Drug Policy, will describe "the nefarious impact the so-called War on Drugs has had in contributing to mass incarceration". [Please click here for more information.](#)

Traci Blackmon to lead UCC Justice and Witness Ministries

A prominent community leader, a gifted preacher and a much-loved pastor and teacher has been appointed as the acting executive of UCC Justice and Witness Ministries.

The Rev. Traci Blackmon, pastor of Christ The King UCC, in Florissant, Mo., called by the United Church of Christ General Minister and President and the UCC Board chair and vice-chair, and appointed to the position by an enthusiastic and unanimous vote of the Board of Directors, looks forward to beginning her work with the national offices.

[Link to full article.](#)



IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1905 Edmondson Avenue
Catonsville, MD 21228-4231

Lectionary Readings

(Day-Date; First Reading & Psalm; Alternate First Reading & Psalm; Second Reading; Gospel)

Note: There is no alternate first reading during advent)

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost - November 1, 2015 (If All Saints not observed on this day)

Ruth 1:1-18 & Psalm 146; Deuteronomy 6:1-9 & Psalm 119:1-8; Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34

All Saints Day - November 1, 2015

Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9 or Isaiah 25:6-9 & Psalm 24; Revelation 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost - November 8, 2015

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 & Psalm 127; 1 Kings 17:8-16 & Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost - November 15, 2015

1 Samuel 1:4-20, 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Daniel 12:1-3 & Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25; Mark 13:1-8

Reign of Christ - Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost - November 22, 2015

2 Samuel 23:1-7 & Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18); Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 & Psalm 93; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

Thanksgiving Day, USA - November 26, 2015

Joel 2:21-27 & Psalm 126; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Matthew 6:25-33

First Sunday of Advent - November 29, 2015

Jeremiah 33:14-16 & Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

Prayer Concerns

PRAYER CONCERNS IN THE CHURCH FAMILY:

Jill Kramer (ankle) & Tim Kramer (mild heart attack).



PRAYER CONCERNS IN THE EXTENDED CHURCH FAMILY:

Lisa Ianuzzi's friend Dian Hane (moving); Kim Turner (health); Tyleshia Monroe's extended family; Cathy DiPaula (back surgery); Leslie Dunham's mother, Ann Connington (broken hip)

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS:

Baltimore; Safety for Law Enforcement Personnel; European volunteers helping Refugees; All facing increasing violence and terrorism; South Korea, Afghanistan; Iraq; Syria.