



THE CHIMES

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1905 Edmondson Avenue • Catonsville, Maryland 21228

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February 2016

The Consistory Officers

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Karl Briers

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Bryan Holley

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All Members

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Les Luco

Marjay Contwor

Nevin Oklumfor

Administrative Assistant

Lisa Ianuzzi

Custodian

Lori Hamilton

"Reflections"

There comes a time in the life of every church when "the way it is" collides with unavoidable change. As you know or may have forgotten, Immanuel developed a Ministerial Review Committee in 2015 to look at all phases of our ministries and structure to see how effective we are and to come up with recommendations for the Consistory to consider. You saw part of their work reflected in the revisions to our By-Laws which were passed at our 2015 Annual Meeting. The hardest part has now come to pass.

The Ministerial Review Committee presented a recommendation to the Consistory to recalibrate the structure of the church office and address its current and future technological needs, which would involve a change in staff. The Consistory passed the recommendation. In order to communicate with current members and attract new prospects, all churches must keep up with all of these changes as quickly as possible.

This often results in hiring people with different skill sets than were previously needed. For us, it means that as of February 29, 2016, Lisa Ianuzzi, will no longer be employed as our part-time secretary. Several members of the church have already become part of a team to walk with Lisa through the transitions of her immediate future. We are her church family and we'll support Lisa as best we can, beginning with prayer and compassion. Please join us in extending to Lisa our thankfulness for her years of faithful service.

Karl Briers
Consistory President

Rev. Beverly Lewis
Pastor

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Ash Wednesday is only a few days away and if we're lucky, we'll come together at 7:30 p.m., to reflect and walk together into another Season of Lent. If the weather becomes uncertain again, Karl, Pat and I will keep you posted. Just get ready to catch some beads Immanuel-style...God be with you in the days ahead.

Peace in all things big and small...

Rev Bev

Upcoming Events

February 10 - Ash Wednesday

February 14 - Consistory

Ash Wednesday

Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.



February Birthdays

03—Michael Fell

07—Ray Abel

14 - Sara Avery-Babel

22—Marjay Contwor

26 - Diana Voelkel



UCC Happenings

Cutting Edge Faith Formation - Discover, Create Experience.

AUCE Annual Gathering April 18 - April 20 - in Bethel, PA. Please share the brochure and registration information with your Christian Educators and anyone who may be interested in Faith Formation. Information can also be found [here](#). (Brochure available for anyone interested)

15th Annual James Floyd Jenkins Pillar of Faith Award Luncheon

Howard University School of Divinity (HUSD), in collaboration with the United Church of Christ (UCC) Friends of HUSD, is hosting its 15th Annual James Floyd Jenkins Pillar of

Faith Award Luncheon on Saturday, April 16, 2016 from 12 Noon to 2:30 pm at Martin's Crosswinds, 7400 Greenbelt Center Drive, Greenbelt, MD.

The Luncheon is the premier event in the Conference's effort to build on its historic connection with the School of Divinity, which was founded through the efforts of members of First Congregational Church in Washington, D.C. And to fund the American Missionary Association Endowed Chair that supports the Ph.D. program in Africana Religious Studies.

Water for Flint

The text below was copied from an email sent by the pastor at Woodside Church in Flint. As we hear about the problems there it is good to know that a UCC church is doing something. The church web site (<http://www.woodsidechurch.net/>) has more information about the water crises.

Woodside Church
1509 E. Court Street
Flint, MI 48503

Thanks for your prayers and desire to help. Woodside Church is working with local activists and organizers to respond to this wholly avoidable mess in the most efficient and effective ways we can. To that end, Woodside is working to filter our church water at the point of entry, replace all our drinking fountains with water bottle fill stations, and open our building to the community at no cost.

Beyond that, as funds are gathered, we will work to identify other such "safe water houses" in various neighborhoods, to help ensure ongoing access to safe water throughout the city. Michigan Conference is supporting and sharing this info, and I invite you to share it in your conference as well. Folks can send their gifts to Woodside Church, with "water" in the memo line.

As always, we encourage folks to know more about issues, and how this local water crisis is not unrelated to the global water crisis, to austerity economics, to "blame the poor" public policy, and to enduring American racism. I'm working on a reading list I hope to build on our website, and invite you inundate your elected officials with calls for refocusing political attention on the common good.

Thanks again. It's good to be part of a bold and caring church.

deb

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Flint, MI
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Lectionary Readings

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

Transfiguration Sunday - February 7, 2016

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

Ash Wednesday - February 10, 2016

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

First Sunday in Lent - February 14, 2016

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

Second Sunday in Lent - February 21, 2016

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

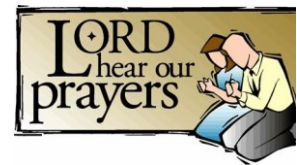
Third Sunday in Lent - February 28, 2016

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

Prayer Concerns

PRAYER CONCERNS IN THE CHURCH FAMILY:

Jane DiPaula (fractured hip);
Dick Voekel (impending hip replacement);
The Garner extended family.



NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS:

Baltimore; Chicago; Storm victim in Garland & Rowlett TX; Flint MI; Safety for Law Enforcement Personnel; European volunteers helping Refugees; All facing increasing violence and terrorism: Afghanistan; Iraq; Syria.