



THE CHIMES

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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March 2016

"Rev flections"

I've decided that the Season of Lent and a national election cycle really don't fit together very well. One involves 40 days of spiritual introspection, reflection, meditation and spiritual growth. The other is driving me nuts and pushing me into more moments of repentance than I want to think about! But, maybe I need to reframe the endless political speech with the timeless challenge of discipleship. The secular world finds faith irrelevant and intrusive. Many of the Church rely on faith only in a crisis or when it's convenient.

Soon, and I really do mean soon, Lent will take us to Holy Week. Then, if you choose to follow the walk to the finish after Palm Sunday, the cross in Jerusalem will beckon after a final meal, a series of failures by the inner circle of disciples, and the cosmic broken heart of God. But after three days of silence, God created eternal life out of ultimate death. And God has been inviting us to keep the ministry of Jesus alive ever since.

The journey will bring us together for Palm Sunday, Maundy (Holy) Thursday, and Good Friday worship services. If you would be willing to serve as a liturgist or scripture reader, please let me know. I'd appreciate your help as each service builds up to the joy of the very first Easter when all of human history was forever changed.

I've begun the preliminary interviews for the Administrative Assistant position. As soon as the Chair of the Human Relations Committee returns from her international vacation, the Committee and I will be meeting with each candidate. Please pray with and for us as we seek God's best match to fill this strategic hub of our ongoing ministries.

The spring migration has already begun, so keep your binoculars handy and clean out your bird houses from last year's borders! If you want to give our bird friends a helping hand, keep your feeders full and provide nesting material (one inch pieces of thread in your dryer lint and bits of cotton from your medicine bottles! If you use bright, colorful pieces of yarn, you'll be able to see your small gifts turn into intricate construction projects across your neighborhood! It's so cool!

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I hope your Lenten walk continues to be meaningful and takes you to a deeper place of reflection and personal growth as a Christian. Come to worship and celebrate Easter with your friends at Immanuel UCC! Peace and Happy Easter!

Rev Bev

Upcoming Events

March 20 - Palm Sunday

March 24 - Maundy Thursday 7:30 Service in Fireside Room

March 25 - Good Friday 7:30 service in Sanctuary

March 28 - Easter Sunday



March Birthdays

01 - Susan Keach Sweeney

02 - Les Luco

04 - Pat Dempsey

11 - Kathleen Thompson

17 - Pat Previdi

17 - George Evans

25 - Steven Jacobson

27 - Steve DiPaula

29 - Bob Garner

29 - Noelle Ann Dunham

30 - Kai Barbosa

30 - Meg Oliver



UCC Happenings

52nd Annual Meeting of the Central Atlantic Conference

The Annual Meeting of the Central Atlantic Conference will be held June 10 - 12, 2016 at the University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware.

James Floyd Jenkins Pillar of Faith Award Program

Howard University School of Divinity (HUSD), in collaboration with the United Church of Christ (UCC) Friends of HUSD, is hosting its fifteenth annual James Floyd Jenkins Pillar of Faith Award Program on Saturday, April 16, 2016 from 12 Noon to 2:30 pm at Martin's Crosswinds, 7400 Greenbelt Center Drive, Greenbelt, MD.

One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery. Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place. Thank you for your generous contribution.

You can use the pew envelope to make a donation through Immanuel. If you prefer you can donate online by clicking on this link [OGHS](#). If you prefer to donate by mail, make checks to OGHS and mail to: United Church of Christ OGHS c/o Financial Services office, 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115.

If you shop online please consider signing up for iGive. You can use iGive to shop your favorite online stores and a percentage will be donated to the OGHS. Amazon has a similar option with Amazon Smile. Both of these options are described by clicking on the link in the paragraph above.

Catonsville Emergency Assistance (CEA)

CEA, formerly CEFM, is where Immanuel sends the food collected at church. During the Thanksgiving-Christmas season places like CEA get lots of donations. They call it the "foodnami". But beginning about this time of year the stocks begin to go down. The web site suggests the following items as being most needed –

- Canned Beans (especially baked beans)
- Dessert Mix Packages (Muffins and Cake)
- Canned Spinach
- Canned Carrots
- Canned Mixed Vegetables
- Dinner Helper
- Tomato Products (crushed tomatoes, canned tomatoes, etc.)
- Sugar
- Pasta Sauce



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Lectionary Readings

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

Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 6, 2016

Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Fifth Sunday in Lent - March 13, 2016

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

Palm/Passion Sunday - March 20, 2016

Liturgy of the Palms: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40

Liturgy of the Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

Maundy Thursday - March 24, 2016

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday - March 25, 2016

Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42

Easter Sunday - March 27, 2016

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

Prayer Concerns

PRAYER CONCERNS IN THE CHURCH FAMILY:

Dick Voekel (hip replacement);
The Garner extended family.



NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS:

Baltimore; Flint, MI; Safety for Law Enforcement Personnel; Syrian Refugees; All facing increasing violence and terrorism Worldwide: Afghanistan; Iraq; Syria.