



THE CHIMES

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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“Reflections”

March 2019

As we continue this Lenten journey, our pathways are still loaded with choices: what we eat and drink and how much; what we spend and save, and how much; what we keep and share, and how much; ultimately, where does God fit into my life and how much. As the chaos of our national life continues to mount and the suffering of so many of our neighbors is increasing, each of us need to take a step back and think. What difference can my life possibly make? If you take any part of the Bible seriously, then the answer can be “enough - with God’s help.”

Each of us needs a time of reckoning within our own hearts to see ourselves realistically. Yes, we’re flawed, fragile, and many times way too cranky. Goodness doesn’t always come naturally. We internalize a lot of stuff and overwhelm ourselves so much that it’s easy to lash out at our family members, friends and innocent bystanders at any given moment. We have to own these angry behaviors and make amends to the victims we’ve just created.

If we have learned anything in the last two years in our national life, we know that words have the power to build up or to destroy. Actions matter and inaction creates body counts. Seemingly innocent sarcasm can become a heartless weapon if the person on the receiving end doesn’t know you very well. Unexpected criticism can create a deep wound that has a capacity to scar for years when someone tries a new thing for the first time.

Small churches can be hotbeds of unaddressed “less than great” behavior patterns. Large churches do the same stuff, but there are more members to spread it around and among. Every church has its own “set in stone way of doing things.” Expectations are unwritten. New people are just supposed to absorb the patterns automatically. And what happens? They take on a new job without any training and get slammed for not knowing what they’ve never been told.

It’s not fair, is it? We, of all people, should know better. When we fail as a church, the wounds go deep and scar the soul as well as the heart. What happens next depends on where you were standing at the time. If you were the giver, then seeking forgiveness is mandatory. If you were on the receiving end, offering forgiveness is even harder. Somewhere in the haze, God’s healing hands can hold all of us. Only then, does healing have a chance.

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Lent is a time of living in shadows and depending more on the reflected light we're to bring into the world around and beyond us. These are days and nights of contrasts, memories, feeling lost and being found. We see the journey in the life of Jesus as he struggled with his own imminent death and ultimate isolation. His words, his choices, his life changed the history of the world.

For better or worse, we too, have the capacity to impact the people we love and those we don't know yet. I think we need the shadow time to see more clearly and live more responsibly. Broken things, bruised relationships can only be fixed if we have the courage to pick them up and try. No one said it was easy...just worth it...

Rev Bev

Support Needed for LGBTQ+ Immigrants Brought to D.C. From Border



Our still speaking God calls us to love everyone and be our siblings' keeper. Show that love and live into that call by helping Empowerment Justice Center (EJC) and Casa Ruby's to meet 15 LGBTQ+ immigrants' basic needs.

The U.S. Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) put the queer children of God into EJC and Casa Ruby's custody after five detention centers in the San Antonio, Texas area rejected them. They were brought to D.C. by van. An LGBTQ+ network provided necessities during stops in Houston, Birmingham, and Atlanta.

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We humbly ask Potomac Association congregations to donate clothing, food, and money to help sustain our new neighbors. Clothing, non-perishable items, and gift certificates (to buy meat) can be brought to:

Casa Ruby
7530 Georgia Avenue NW
Washington, D.C.
9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday

Monetary donations go toward the latter needs as well as securing permanent housing, mental health care, and immigration processing. You can donate [here](#).

EJC is a ministry of [Empowerment Liberation Cathedral](#) a church in care in the Potomac Association led by Bishop Alyson Abrams. [Casa Ruby](#), founded by Ruby Corado in 2012, is an LGBTQ+ community center.

Rev. Jason Wilson Carson

Potomac Association Organizer, Central Atlantic Conference LGBTQ+ Network

Announcements

Thank You Messages from Earl's Place Residents

Please see the bulletin board to read the notes of thanks sent by the recipients of the Christmas gifts given to Earl's Place residents.

Draft of New Directory

The draft of the new directory is on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Please check to see that your listing is correct and then mark the directory to show you've review it.

March Birthdays

01 – Susan Keach Sweeney

02 – Les Luco

04 – Pat Dempsey

05 – Jane Maher

17 – Pat Previdi

27 – Steve DiPaula

29 – Bob Garner

29 – Noelle Ann Dunham

30 – Meg Oliver



Upcoming Events

Deadline for Easter Flower Orders – April 7 is the deadline to order Easter Flowers. Order slips are in the Sunday bulletin.

Palm Sunday – April 14

Maundy Thursday – April 18 - 7:30pm at St. John's Grace United Church of Christ

Good Friday – April 19 - 7:30pm at Immanuel UCC

Easter – April 21



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Lectionary Readings

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

Transfiguration Sunday – March 3, 2019

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

Ash Wednesday – March 6, 2019

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

First Sunday in Lent – March 10, 2019

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

Second Sunday in Lent – March 17, 2019

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

Third Sunday in Lent – March 24, 2019

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

Fourth Sunday in Lent – March 31, 2019

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

Prayer Concerns

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR HOME-BOUND MEMBERS:

PRAYER CONCERNS IN THE CHURCH FAMILY:

Joyce Stanton, radiation treatment completed; Jill, Bell's Palsy.

PRAYER CONCERNS IN THE EXTENDED CHURCH FAMILY:

June Lewis (Rev Bev's mom), respiratory illness; Rev. Casey Cain, medical condition; Kineta Rotan's extended family; Bryan Holley's brother and extended family; Rev. Maeba Jonas' mother, Susan, cancer recurrence and chemotherapy; Sue and Steve DiPaula's extended family; Central Atlantic Conference; residents and staff of Earl's Place; Kim Turner, treatment for brain cancer.

PRAYER CONCERNS IN OUR REGION:

Baltimore gun violence; all undocumented residents; refugee families in Baltimore County; safety of law enforcement and first responders.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS:

Parkland High School Survivors & PTSD; Nebraska, Wisconsin, Iowa flooding; Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi; Christ Church, New Zealand; Alabama and Georgia; flu sufferers; Venezuela, Britain; Kenya; Syria; Reunification of immigrant and refugee kids with their families; Puerto Rico; all UCC disaster relief projects; prayers for our country; families fearful of deportation; all U.S. military deployed and stateside; refugees seeking safety and compassionate care; refugees seeking safety and compassionate care.