



On The Move

Volume 4 | Issue No. 3, Winter 2023 | Immanuel United Methodist Church, Grasonville, MD

Time To Celebrate

"It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" is a popular Christmas song written in 1963 by Edward Pola and George Wyle. It celebrates the best season of all. And we know why. In addition to the good cheers, the happy meetings, the marshmallows, and the many gifts, we know why this is the best season.

Christmas is about that baby who was born in Bethlehem and became the revelation of God the Son, to save the world, those who believe and trust their souls to Him. We have a very good reason for caroling, for the giving and for being especially joyous. Christ lives in our hearts!

As we come to this season, we hope you will join us in our Christmas services on the 24th of December. Some folks are very excited and getting ready for the Nativity play, to be presented at the Candlelight service on Dec. 24th at 8pm. It's a very good reason to be at church with the whole family.

On behalf of Immanuel Church and my family, we wish you a very blessed Christmas season and New Year, full of joy and hope because The Lord is with Us. That is the meaning of our church's name, isn't it? Feliz Navidad!

Pastor Angel

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ACTIVITIES HELD LAST FALL



We held another crap feast, Sept. 30.



We donated Thanksgiving baskets. Big thanks!



Pastor Angel & Liz vacationed in Vegas, in October.



38 Shoeboxes were donated to Samaritan Purse, Evang. Franklin Graham Organization. Thank you!



Had another Coffee House, on September 23rd.



Grasonville Firefighters attended our Trunk or Treat night, on October 31st.



We celebrated The Hanging of the Christmas Greens, December 3.



We remembered our loved ones who transitioned to heaven, during All Saints service, on November 5.



**Sermon "Hope At the Beginning and End "
Pastor Angel Marrero, Dec. 3, 2023**

See, I am coming soon ... I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Revelation 22:12

Today we begin our season of Advent and with it our new Christian year. And the topic on this first Sunday is hope. What is hope? A quick look at the dictionary finds that hope is "a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen."

When we get news that a baby will arrive in a few months, we hope, we expect that everything will go well and the miracle that happens every day will be a reality of joy to our families.

Today, there are many things that we hope for. We pray and hope that wars will come to an end before thousands of innocent lives are lost in what were once considered safe places. Sometimes, we find ourselves hoping against all odds, feeling as if what we desire is impossible. But in those moments, it is our faith that helps us persevere.

Faith - A dictionary (Merriam-Webster) defines faith as the "firm belief in something for which there is no proof." And the best dictionary, the Bible, puts it this way, "*Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*" Hebrews 11:1

When we have that certainty that what we hope for will indeed happen, even if it goes against any rationale, we are venturing into the field of faith. A person may have been told that he or she has a terminal illness but insists on believing that that threat will go away and prays against that bad news. That is faith. We may even join them in their belief. And sometimes, there is a miracle.

I remember when I did my Clinical Pastoral Education, a requirement for my studies in the seminary. I did my practice at a children's hospital. I was required to work as a chaplain, to be present with the families in need. I always remember when the parents were hopeful, when they had faith that a miracle of healing was to happen, even if the prognosis, if the prospects, were poor. When faith and hope intersect, it creates an unbreakable bond. Do you have hope? As a Christian, you should. I can understand non-believers when they

say that they have no hope, but I cannot understand Christians when they do as well. We must have hope, because of God, because of Jesus.

The Scripture, the Bible is all about Jesus. He is promised at the beginning, in Genesis 3:15, as the One who would defeat the enemy of our souls. He is promised by the prophets as the Emmanuel who was to come in times of darkness for Israel.

When Jesus was with his disciples, when his own feared that the worst, his death, was approaching, he promised them of his coming. "*Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.*" John 14:1-3

There are multiple ways to understand Jesus' words. One of the possible interpretations, if not the main one, is that Jesus was going to the heavenly realm, from where he, as God the Son, had come, to prepare a path for his disciples and all who believe, including us today. Another way to interpret his words is to see them as a reference to hope.,

Sometimes, we may find ourselves in a challenging situation where we struggle to see a positive outcome. But when it seems like all doors of opportunity are closing, Jesus urges us to "wait" and remember that there are many rooms in his father's house. This means that there are numerous possibilities available to us. With God, nothing is impossible. Jesus can bring us to the level he is in. "*I will come back and take you to be with me.*" We are not left behind. Do you believe this?

The Bible opens with the promise of the Redeemer that is to come, then shows us that indeed he came, in his first coming, and closes with the same promise. "*See, I am coming soon ... I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.*" Jesus has the last word in all that matters. Believe in him and put your total trust in him. Hope at the beginning and hope at the end. Amen. Come Lord Jesus!

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sun December 10th	Deer Head Client Donations due
Sunday, Dec 10 th	Rehearsals Nativity Play, after the service
December 17th	Support local families at Christmas
Sunday, Dec. 17th 11:05 am	 Children's Christmas Party
Wed Dec. 20 th	A Christmas Story – Trip to Lancaster (for those who registered)
Sunday December 24 th 10 am	 Sunday Worship Service
Sunday December 24 th 8pm	 Nativity Play Candlelight Service
Sunday December 31 st	Last service in 2023. Don't miss it!
Sunday, Jan 7	1 st Service of 2024



Watch it with the whole family!

<https://tickets.journeytobethlehemmovie.com/>



Administrative Church Council

Lay Leader: TBD

Council Chair: Jim Barnette

Finance Chair: Julie Darling

Treasurers:

Church: Linda & Jim Simmons

Endowment: Doug Ewing

Building Fund: Lisa Smith

Trustees:

Chair: Joe Wojtecki

Members: Jim Barnette,

Jessica Cornell

SPRC:

Chair: Melanie Drake

Member: Diane Ewing

Member: Dorothy Capel

Member: Rachel Sherwood

Admin Secretary: Mildred Barnette

Children's Ministry and Safe Sanctuary:

Chair: Jo Hill-Kittle

Youth Coordinator: Jessica Cornell

Assistant: Julie Darling

Assistant: Linda Simmons

Membership Secretary:

-To determine-

Altar Guild: Mildred Barnette

Pastor: Angel Marrero

302-743-0729

Office Hours: Tues 10 AM – 2 PM;

Thurs 2 - 6 PM

Our address:

P.O. Box 518

Grasonville, MD 21638

www.lumc21638.org

102 School House Ln, Grasonville,

MD 21638

Celebrations since May 2023
(Did we miss you? Please let us know!)

Anniversaries

Dec 4 Dorothy/Tom Capel
Nov. 18 Melanie and Gregg Drake
Oct. 26 Mildred & Jim Barnett Anniversary
Oct. 25 Lourdes & Joe Wojtecki
Oct. 21 Pastors Angel & Liz
Oct. 15 Lillian & Bo Anniversary
May 22 Jim and Linda Simmons

Birthdays

Dec 26 Anita Snyder
Dec 24 Joe Hill Kittle
Dec 20 Ron Taylor
Dec 18 Bo McNeal
Dec 15 Melanie Drake
Dec 11 Dwane Green
Dec 14 Mackenzie Smith
Dec 8 Maurice Dashiell
Nov 25 Emmett Fordham
Nov 17 Janet Breeding
Oct. 31 Joanne Woodward
Oct. 23 Lisa Smith
Oct. 21 Pastor Angel
Oct. 19 Lourdes Wojtecki
Sept. 30 Caleb Cornell
Sept. 17 Michael McNeal
Sept. 30 Carolyn Kershner
Sept. 28 Mason Green
Sept. 26 Darlene Nash
Sept. 23 Cheyanne Horney
Aug. 31st Jeff Hunsucker
Aug. 29th Laura Simmons
Aug. 7th Lorraine Haddaway
Aug. 8th Rose Rowden
Aug 3rd- Michael Cornell Jr (Chippie)
Jun 23 Kyle Villar
Jun 22 John Wade
Jun 19 Rachel Sherwood
May 28 Lindsey Scaggs
May 28 Joe Wojtecki
May 9 Linda Simmons
May 7 Elwood Scaggs



Helpful Links

Readiness360 is an online congregational assessment tool that helps churches of all sizes and settings measure its spiritual intensity, health of relationships, missional alignment and openness to those who are different. More information available at <https://www.pdcbbc.org/readiness360.html>

Daily Bread Devotional (<https://odb.org>)
Upper Room Devotional (<https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals>)

Subscribe to our Youtube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/@immanuelunitedmetho/chu2680/streams>

Did you miss the Worship Service? Watch at:
<https://www.facebook.com/iuac21638/videos>

We Remember Them

In 2023, these members transitioned to heaven. We pray for the peace and comfort of their families.

Blanche Dashiell, February 21 2023
Mary Davidson, March 24 2023
Arlene Jewell, October 27 2023

2024 Walk to Emmaus®

The Walk to Emmaus® is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The Walk to Emmaus® experience begins with a 72-hour short course in Christianity, comprised of fifteen talks by lay and clergy on the themes of God's grace, disciplines of Christian discipleship, and what it means to be the church. Men, women, and youth attend separate weekends.

[About | - Delmarva Emmaus & Chrysalis Community \(flywithchrist.org\)](#)

If interested, talk to Pastor Angel about these upcoming events in 2024.

EMMAUS RETREAT INFO

Men's Walk #76

March 7-10, 2024

LD Barry Conner

Women's Walk #76

April 18-21, 2024

LD Helen Lewis

CHRYSALIS RETREAT INFO

Guy's Flight #58

November 10-12, 2023

LD Rollin Shephard

Girl's Flight #60

March 15-17, 2024

LD Hannah Emrey



What is a Lay Servant?

A Lay Servant is an active, supportive member of a United Methodist congregation who is eager to be in ministry through the church. He/she is well-informed scripture, doctrine, heritage, organization and life of United Methodist Church and is committed to witnessing through church and community leadership care giving ministries and spoken communication. A L Servant is willing to initiate ministry in partnership with clergy and other Lay Servants and willing to improve his/her skills for service.

For information on the Lay Servant Academy and the courses offered, contact the District Lay Servant Academy Director.

*Delaware District: kbchamberlain@avenueumc.com (Kevin Chamberlain)

*Lower Shore District: ciaddh@yahoo.com (Deborah Horsey)

*Upper Shore District: jennifer.christy.jc@gmail.com (Jennifer Christy)

Report From The Treasurer & The Conference

Record Offering	\$12,743
Avg Offering Last Year	\$1,658
Balance as of October 31 st , 2023	\$41,038.38
Apportionment* assigned for 2023	\$11,040
Apportionment paid as of September 30th (rpt. by the conference)	\$8280.00 (75%)

*Apportionments support the various programs of the Ann Conference of the UMC.

Thank you for your financial support to your church!



Immanuel United Methodist Church - Join us Sundays 9 am for All Ages School and 10 am for worship. We gather Thursdays at 6pm for Bible Study. **All are welcome!** Find us on Facebook Live!

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P. O. Box 518, Grasonville MD 21638

