

Immanuel's Lighted Path



Lent 2019

IMPORTANT DATES

TOWNSEND EASTER EGG HUNT

APRIL 7

2PM

TOWNSEND PARK

YOUTH GROUP PALM SUNDAY CAR SHOW

APRIL 14

2PM

GRADUATION SUNDAY

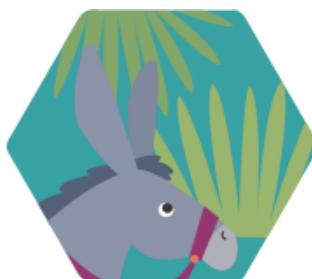
JUNE 2

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

JULY 6

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 8-12



Palm Sunday Service

April 14

11am



Maundy Thursday

April 18

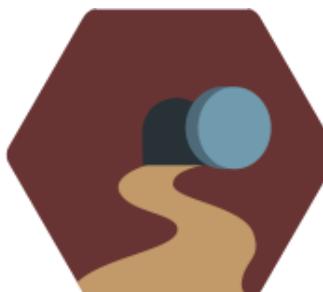
Dinner: 6pm Service: 7pm



Good Friday - April 19

Noon: Service

12:30pm-6:30am- Prayer Stations



Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service- 7am

Breakfast To Follow

Easter Egg Hunt- 10:30am
Traditional Service-11am

More Information on Page 4



Easter Memorial Flowers

Once again we will use flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Easter.

These flowers can be placed in honor or in memory of loved ones. Please bring your flowers to the church by 11am on

Saturday April 20th. Have your dedications to Sue Clark for inclusion in the bulletin by Thursday, April 18th. You can email the information to

sclark@udel.edu.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The Season of Resurrection and Renewal.

One of my favorite aspects of the Easter season is the poetic beauty of it. The fact that Easter is always in the spring, when the flowers are coming up out of the ground when new life springs forth, it is only appropriate that our Christian faith should celebrate the real truth of new life, of Jesus coming up from the ground, of the hope of a future yet to be seen. That is what Easter is all about. The promise of the future.

This year I will celebrate the fourth Easter with you, and I love to hold onto the hope of the future. Each year we face so many trials, so many things that test our mettle and seem to stretch our determination. Whether it be financial setbacks, personal loss, health issues, the loss of loved ones, addictions, abuse or any number of other things we need to find hope. So each year we have Easter. The opportunity to realize that no matter how hopeless, how dire, how horrible the situations we are facing or have endured can be, there is still hope. When Jesus resurrected from the grave he gave birth to hope for eternity, hope for the future, hope that there is more than we can ever think or imagine. Praise God.

I have been so blessed to be your pastor for the last four years, yet this Easter comes at a particularly needed time. You know the situations that my sons and I have endured and have relied upon our faith and the love of this church to persevere. For that reason I continue to be praise God for you, realizing how God's providence put us here in this place for these times. I am unsure how we would have made it without you, but in God's wisdom, we will never need to figure that out. You have been a blessing of hope, a well of love, and a constant blanket of warmth. Thank you. I know that it is the hope of Jesus, the power of Easter that lives within you that has allowed you to show such compassion and mercy.

As we face this Easter, I am still hopeful. Hopeful because of what I know about Jesus and about what I have seen in you. As we prepare to move into another season of our lives in a new place in just a few months and you prepare to enter a new season of ministry with Rev. Grant Johnson, I continue to be hopeful. I know that the love that you have poured into our lives will continue to be poured into Rev. Johnson and as he continues to lead you into ministry opportunities to share this love with the community in the world, there are many reasons to rejoice.

Immanuel has grown tremendously in the four years of our ministry and I am confident that there is plenty of room for new growth to take place in ways we have not begun to imagine yet. I look forward to hearing the stories of the wonderful things that are happening here as you continue developing the seeds that we have planted, as well as the new seeds yet to be planted. Spring is upon us. Easter is here. The season of Renewal, Resurrection and New Life gives us hope for today and tomorrow.

Praise God! Hallelujah! Amen.

Pastor Hayden



INTRODUCING REV. GRANT JOHNSON

On July 1, the Townsend Charge, Immanuel and Friendship Churches will welcome a new pastor, The Rev. Grant Johnson, as we bid farewell to Rev. Hayden who is being reassigned to Mt. Zion UMC in the Baltimore Washington Conference also effective July 1. Rev. Johnson is currently serving as the pastor to Peninsula- McCabe UMC in Wilmington.

Rev. Johnson brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to share with us. He has served churches in Georgia, where he began his ministry, in Philadelphia, in Kennett Square, PA and in Salisbury where he served as the first executive Director of the Salisbury Urban Ministries which is a group of 8 United Methodist Churches who joined together for ministry. This ministry is a model of people working together across racial, social, and religious lines to impact the community in positive ways. Rev. Johnson is especially interested in missions and social justice.

In his statement regarding his spiritual journey he states, "... there is a direct connection between church and community. The church has a role in demonstrating God's love in a hurting world. ... Faith is a continuous and growing process. I have learned to be open to new ideas and ventures for ministry. The transforming power of God is real. Over time and experiences, God does change us and make us more in the image of His Son, Jesus Christ."

Rev. Johnson is married to Rev. Pearl Johnson who is the pastor of Simpson UMC in Wilmington. They have two adult children and 6 grandchildren. They moved to Middletown 6 months ago and he will continue to live in Middletown. He enjoys fantasy baseball and football.

A Special Message

I cannot thank you enough for letting me be your Pastor. You have blessed my life in more ways than anyone should be able to count. You have been with me in my toughest times and have loved me through them. Thank you with all the love that I have to give. I have loved getting to know each one of you in various ways over the past four years, but as I believe the bishop heard from God when I was appointed here, I now believe the bishop has heard from God in changing my appointment. I am sad to leave, because I hate to leave friends, but I know I am leaving you in good hands in Rev. Grant Johnson. I trust you will enjoy his preaching and learn from his wisdom. When I leave in July, he will be your Pastor and I will simply be your friend. That is a good thing.

However, I must let you know that since I will not be your pastor, upon my departure, he is the one to contact about visits, illnesses, weddings, baptisms and funerals. I will not be coming back to fill his shoes in those departments; it will be his role and I want to show him the utmost respect. I trust you will do the same. To help facilitate this changeover, the conference encourages all pastors to adhere to a strict no-contact policy that includes family members also. That means, although I will be your friend, I am not to contact you for a year so as to not undermine your relationship building with the new pastor. I look forward to the July following when we can resume our relationships with the new dynamic of being friends and not Pastor/Parishioner.

With the Love of Jesus always holding us together,
Pastor Hayden

Holy Week



Palm Sunday April 14

11am Worship Service

On Palm Sunday we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the week before his death and resurrection. It marks the beginning of Holy Week, which concludes on Easter Sunday.



Maundy Thursday Dinner & Service April 18

6pm- Covered Dish Dinner

Bring your favorite potluck to share as we gather to eat together before our Maundy Thursday service.

7pm- Covered Dish Dinner

Join with us in celebrating the last supper of Jesus in preparation for Good Friday and the Easter celebration.



Good Friday April 19

12pm Worship Service

We will be having a short service of reflection as we kick-off the Good Friday Prayer Stations.

12:30pm-6:30am- Prayer Vigil Stations

Throughout the years, Christians have experienced a powerful and moving commemoration of our Savior's death by attending Good Friday Prayer Vigils. At Immanuel, our Good Friday Prayer Station Vigil is from 12:30pm Friday, April 19th to 6:30am Saturday, April 20th. We ask participants to sign up for a 30-minute time slot. During this time, you can use the prayer stations to pray, reflect, read scripture and complete the stations activity. Plan now to set aside some time on Good Friday to commemorate Christ's redeeming act. During the overnight hours the Youth will be in the church to fill in any empty slots. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board above the water fountain.



Easter Sunday April 21

7am Sunrise Service

Join us for an outdoor worship experience as we celebrate the morning when Jesus conquered the grave. The front lawn is the perfect place to celebrate the resurrection as you start the day.

Breakfast To Follow

10:30am Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Egg Hunt- Bring the children for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt at 10:30am

11am Traditional Service

A traditional Resurrection Celebration service will be held. Bring your family to celebrate the Holiest Day of the Year, the day that Jesus resurrected from the grave.

PALM SUNDAY CAR SHOW

APRIL 14 2:00PM

*Immanuel United Methodist Church
209 Main Street, Townsend*

Car Entrance Fee: \$10.00

Snacks Available For Purchase

*Prizes for
"Best in Show"
"1st Runner Up"
"People's Choice"*

*Proceeds Benefit
Immanuel UMC
Youth Group*



For his Senior Project, Chance Gagnon is having a Palm Sunday Car Show on April 14 starting at 2pm in the Immanuel Parking lot. Admission will be \$10.00 to enter a car. Chance has organized the youth group to sell hot dogs, chips and soda's/water. The cost will be \$2.00 each or a combo for \$5.00. All proceeds from the car show will go to the IUMC Youth Group to help them go to the Penn/Del Youth Rally in Ocean City, MD. and to have monies for various fun activities throughout the year. Several area MOT businesses have donated items to be raffled off at the show. Trophies will be given out for "Best in Show", "1st Runner Up", and "People's Choice". Chance is looking for adult Volunteers to be judges for the car show, and to help with traffic flow and parking for cars that are entering.



Town of Townsend Easter Egg Hunt

On April 7 at 2PM, the Town of Townsend will be having their Easter Egg Hunt at Town Park. Immanuel is once again providing dessert for the event and so all children that are a part of our Kids WOW program are invited to be a part of the town event.

Bring your children to enjoy this fun event.



If you have difficulty hearing during the church service we have devices to help. We have options for persons who have hearing aids and those who do not. If you would like to try a device please see Martha Masters.



The 3M's donated to youth group for the rally. The group also donated \$200 to the Townsend Women's Club for a needy family from Townsend school. In February the 3M's served dinner for the US Postal Service



Have you noticed the freshly painted areas in the sanctuary? We finally got the leak fixed, so it seemed safe to paint. We hope you agree.

Upcoming projects for the Trustees are power washing the ramp and the parking lot entrance to Fellowship Hall, removing and replacing several dead bushes in the front, replacing the rotted spindles on the steeple, and refinishing the front door and fixing the ramp door. With Pastor Hayden leaving the parsonage, there are some projects that will need to be done there before we decide the new plan for the parsonage.



What About Relay?

For the past 18 years, at this time of year, the Relay Team has been busy making scones, choosing a theme, dreaming up costumes and decorations to use at Relay for Life, preparing for the annual Tea Party, and raising money to support our team. We made the difficult decision that, for a variety of reasons, we are not going to field a Relay Team this year. We do have some money that we will contribute this year from the Immanuel Townsend Relay Team. In these years, we have contributed almost \$500,000 to support cancer research, support, education and advocacy. We have won multiple awards for decorations, costumes, fund raising and team spirit. We have been blessed to have had the continued support of our Immanuel congregation and for that we thank you. As we make this decision, we remember our team members whom we have lost during these years, Jane and Bruce Murray, Dot Wilson and Mike Schuller.

Together we will find a CURE!

Immanuel's Relay Team