This Sunday (06/09/19) Christians around the world will celebrate the **Day of Pentecost (Whitsunday)**, the climactic conclusion of the Great Fifty Days of Easter, and the day we commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit on the early followers of Jesus. The word “Pentecost” comes from the Greek *pentekostos*, meaning “fiftieth,” originally a word that Greek-speaking Jews used to refer to the Jewish holiday of *Shavuot*, celebrated 50 days after Passover—and the reason thousands of Jewish pilgrims had gathered in Jerusalem that particular day.

Scripture describes the descent of the Holy Spirit in dramatic terms: a sound from heaven like a strong wind, and something like tongues of fire resting on the heads of Jesus’ followers. Then, as they were filled with the Holy Spirit they began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them the ability, and were heard by the multitudes each in their own language. Symbolically, this miracle reinforces the multilingual, multicultural, multiracial mission of the
whole Church, and our own parish, that we are called to be a community in which all people are drawn together by God’s love in Christ.

Influenced by the American culture of individualism, many Christians live as if the Church is useful but not really necessary; that as long as we have a "personal relationship" with God, everything else is secondary. But Pentecost is a vivid illustration of the truth that the community of God’s people the Church is central to God’s work in the world. Pentecost gives us the perfect opportunity to re-think our own participation in the fellowship, worship, and mission of the Church, and to renew our commitment to live as an essential member of the body of Christ.

**Liturgy and Music Notes for Pentecost**

Pentecost is a dramatic day in the life of the Church, and we will celebrate it in dramatic and festive ways! Here are just a few:

- The joyful opening hymn, “Hail thee, festival Day,” will be the same one with which we began our Easter celebration fifty days ago, but with verses appropriate to Pentecost.
- At the time of the Gospel reading we will symbolically represent the famous account in the Book of Acts of the proclamation of the Gospel in many tongues, as several parishioners read the Gospel passage in a variety of languages.
- During Communion the choir will sing the ancient, classic Pentecost hymn, the 9th-century *Veni Creator Spiritus* (“Come, Creator Spirit”), which appears in our Hymnal 1982 in three different English translations (500, 502, and 504).
- The *Veni Creator Spiritus* tune is also the foundation for the organ voluntaries which begin and end the service, two brilliant and profusely ornamented *versets* by Nicolas de Grigny, organist at Notre Dame de Paris, who was a much-admired contemporary of J. S. Bach.

- Jack Burnam

**THANK YOU, CHOIRS!**

This Sunday we pay special tribute to our choirs: the Immanuel Choir of adult men and women, and the Ross Choir of school age choristers; and offer our heartfelt thanks for their faithful ministry over the past year. In the course of the program year our choirs devote many hundreds of “singer-hours” to learning and perfecting the hymns, service music and anthems that carry our prayers week by week in public worship. Choristers invest all that time and effort, not to entertain the congregation, but to offer God’s gift of music back to God on the congregation’s behalf. If, during this year, you have ever felt drawn to God through the music that enriches Immanuel’s Liturgy, take time to say “thank you” to a choir member!

The Immanuel Choir: Dawn Proctor, Caroline McDonald, Jeannette Burnam, Mary Nash Godden, Cassidy Dixon, Jenn Hollars, Jo Harney, Valerie Long, Melanie Samardza, Liz Plant, Carol Nile, Mark Bacher, Bob Davis (Head Chorister) Michael Westman, Hal Garber, Bob McDonald, Jeff Meadows, Jim Evitts, Michael Willis, Tommy Kinservik

PARISH HAPPENINGS

The annual picnic will be held on "Seersucker" Sunday, June 9, 2019 immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service on the Academy grounds.

This event has become an annual tradition and is a time where we celebrate and thank our musicians and Sunday school teachers as the academic year comes to a close. Please mark your calendars to join us for this special time of fellowship and fun.

The church is providing the main course, This is not to be missed!! In addition, beverages and chips will be provided.

We are blessed to have so many wonderful and talented chefs and bakers in our parish, many of you who have favorite picnic dishes in your repertoire, thank you all in advance for your contributions! If you plan to bring something don’t worry about letting the office know, just bring it to the Academy before 10am Mass.

We hope to see you all there for this wonderful event!

Immanuel on the Green’s 2019 Pew Accessibility Project

Immanuel Church is a difficult place to visit if you're confined to a wheelchair or other mobility device. Our box pews are elevated, making access difficult for anyone with mobility issues, and there are no spaces in the church where anyone in a wheelchair or mobility device can conveniently enjoy a service.

Our Vestry began to explore solutions to these issues in 2015. We have a solution to these issues that will be completed during this summer.

The Vestry sought to identify a solution that would accommodate people with mobility issues while maintaining the aesthetic of the church. We engaged John Milner Architects, the firm that worked with Immanuel on the rebuilding of the church after the 1980 fire that essentially destroyed everything except the exterior walls of the church. After careful deliberation, we have identified a solution that will meet all of the project’s criteria.

By removing pews on the North side of the church, opposite the porch door, we could achieve the most important criteria of the project:

1. The construction as proposed is the “lightest touch” to altering the church building. Removal of the pews on the North side of the church - opposite an existing open space by the Porch doors – introduces a symmetry that is now currently lacking.
2. Using the North side of the church provides the most inclusive area. Those parishioners and visitors utilizing this area will be right in the midst of the congregation, not segregated at the back or far sides of the church.

3. Opening the pews on the North side of the church is the safest space for an emergency exit from the church for anyone with mobility issues because the space is located directly across from the Porch, which is the church’s primary entrance/exit.

4. Bricks from the porch will be removed and used to replace the wood floor where the raised box pews currently are located. An option to recreate pavers to replace the bricks removed from the porch are being considered, as is an option to use existing late 19th/early 20th century pavers on the porch.

5. Construction will begin in mid-June, 2019, and will be completed during the summer of 2019.

Providing an accessible area for mobility devices, as well as movable seating for those accompanying parishioners and/or visitors using mobility devices, gives Immanuel an opportunity to create a welcoming environment that incorporates all of our parishioners and visitors within our church services.

The Pew Accessibility Project truly enables Immanuel to live into its Mission Statement: 
Building on our 300-year-old missionary journey, as a community nurtured by faith, transformed by spiritual development, and nourished by the liturgy of our tradition, we are called to go out and manifest Christ’s love

- Matt Kinservik
EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES

Jo Harney will be away on sabbatical for a good bit of the summer and it is important that we make sure Compline leadership is covered during this period (and beyond). Please click on the sign-up link below if you can take a week or weeks between now and mid-August.

If you have never led Compline, but would be willing to learn, please sign up and Jo will make sure that training is provided in advance. Thank you for helping us continue our unbroken history of every-week Compline.

Sign up here
St. Anne's Guild

On Monday, April 1, St. Anne's Guild had Caitlin Custer, Donor Relations Manager at the Food Bank of Delaware as a guest speaker at their monthly meeting. Ms. Custer shared a wealth of
information about the Food Banks new facility and the different programs the Food Bank runs. One of the many programs we learned more about was the Backpack Program.

The Food Bank of Delaware's Backpack Program provides food to children (K-12) in need for weekends and holidays when school is not in session and federal school meal programs are not available. Backpacks are stocked with kid-friendly, nutritious food including shelf-stable milk and juice, meals such as macaroni and cheese, spaghetti and meatballs and beef stew, granola bars, apple sauce, cereal and more. They are distributed on Fridays or the last day before a holiday or vacation in a discreet manner at Delaware school sites. More than 5,000 children participate each week.

In the spirit of last years Freezer Fundraiser for the Ministry of Caring; St. Anne's Guild is happy to announce that we have chosen this program for our Spring Fundraiser campaign. For every $200 raised we will be about to cover the cost of one backpack for a child for an entire school year. Throughout the month of May we will be collecting for this worthy program. Donations can be sent to the office, please make checks out to St. Anne's Guild with Backpack Drive in the memo.

Valerie Long, President
St. Anne's Guild

Click here to learn more about the Food Bank
Click here to learn more about the Backpack Program

We Want Your Photos and Ideas!

We’re always looking for photos to put in the Curate and the weekly emails. These photos can be of recent events, Immanelians gathering outside of church, or older events. Whatever you have, we'll take them! Send the photos to the office at immanuelonthegreen@comcast.net. We keep them on file for future use.

**We especially need photos of the Annual Picnic, any and all activities and events attended by the parish, and of the whole congregation during worship.**

SAVE THE DATES!

- June 9 -- Fr. Chris's sermon will be about Invite Welcome Connect.
- June 9 -- Church summer picnic and seersucker Sunday. Parishioners are asked to bring side dishes; the main course will be provided.
- June 22 -- Nursery and Sunday school room cleanup. See Matt Kinservik for more information and to volunteer.
- June 23 -- Last day for the choir, until September.
- Early June -- construction on the pews to start.

The office will be closed on Tuesday 06/11/19.
Did you know we hold Mass every Sunday, Wednesday, and Thursday at Immanuel Church on the Green? Of course you did, but just in case, our service schedule is:

**Sunday**
- 8am - Said Mass
- 10am - Sung Mass
- 7pm - Compline

**Wednesday**
- 9:30am - Said Mass
(The last Wednesday Mass will be on 06/12/19, Mass will then be temporarily cancelled on Wednesdays until further notice due to the pew work.)

**Thursday**
- 6pm - Said Mass

Large print bulletins are available.

**STAY CONNECTED**

If you haven't already, be sure to follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com), [Twitter](https://www.twitter.com) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com). And now, for this week's meme (thanks Patsy)!

Stay up to date on all the latest happenings by visiting our [website](https://www.immanuelchurch.org).