GHIAA ACTION
Thursday, March 12th, 7 PM Sharp
Union Baptist Church, 1921 Main Street, Hartford
PLease arrive by 6:30 PM

This will be a public GHIAA meeting where we update legislators on these campaigns and seek public commitments to support GHIAA's positions.

Background on GHIAA's Campaigns

1. GHIAA is seeking to pass clean slate legislation, which would automatically expunge the criminal records of returning citizens who do not return to crime 3 years after misdemeanors and 5 years after non-violent felonies.

2. GHIAA is seeking to pass legislation that would repeal "welfare liens." A welfare lien is a lien the state places on a low income person receiving various forms of state assistance, demanding repayment when the person sells or refinances a home (many years later), receives a legal settlement (i.e. personal injury), receives any inheritance, or dies and attempts to leave any inheritance to their heirs. Connecticut is one of two states in the country that does this to its residents.

To register for this event visit: https://ghiaamarch.eventbrite.com

Role of Core Teams: Each GHIAA congregation is asked to turn out a minimum of 10 people to this action. Please identify the number of people your congregation will turn out and email that number to ghiaa@cdjct.org or call/text Cori Mackey at 860-810-9736.
What are these Communion Fund Envelopes in our Pews?

Donations you make in these Communion envelopes provide immediate assistance—financial or basic life needs—to our neighbors, and will be tracked on your giving statement for tax purposes. Thank you, in advance, for giving.

Help Plan our Open & Affirming 20th Anniversary!

In late October of 2000, the Immanuel congregation unanimously passed a resolution to become an official Open and Affirming church, extending a full welcome to all LGBTQ persons into Christian fellowship. The vote followed an almost two-year-long study process which involved the entire congregation in self-education and contemplation. Surely this was one of the best Congregational decisions we have ever made, and we intend to celebrate this historic milestone on Oct 24-25, 2020, and in the months leading up to it. Please join us for an initial brainstorming session about how best to mark and celebrate this anniversary. We will meet at 11:30am, Sunday, March 1st, in the Chapel. All are welcome at this initial session.

ONA Co-chairs Sally Taylor & Elijah Nealy

Lenten Racial Justice Study

Film Night, Tuesday, March 3rd

Join us in the Parlor at 6pm to see a deeply personal film about our region’s roots in the slave trade.

“Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North” chronicles the journey of nine descendants of the largest slave-trading family in the United States, as they probe the history of their New England ancestors and confront the contemporary legacies of slavery. The documentary follows producer/director Katrina Browne as she and her family travel to Rhode Island, Ghana, and Cuba to retrace the notorious Triangle Trade – and search for the hidden history of their family, the region, and the nation.

“Traces of the Trade” exposes New England’s deep involvement in the slave trade and shows how slavery was a cornerstone of the region’s commercial life. For more information about the film, please visit http://www.tracesofthetrade.org/.

Discussion Evenings, Tuesdays, March 10th, 17th, 24th

You can also join us at 6pm in the Parlor for any of the follow-up discussions on “Traces of the Trade.” We will be reading Complicity by Anne Farrow, Joel Lang, and Jenifer Frank, the journalists who first published their account of slavery in Connecticut in the Hartford Courant. Some copies will be available on March 3rd.

To sign up, contact Gretchen Hathaway at mvhathaway@gmail.com or John Karrer at saintflash@comcast.net. You can also sign up in Fellowship Hall.

What happens to the guests who stay at our Tuesday night shelter? Why are there so many homeless families? What more can we do to help the families? What systemic changes are needed—and how can we advocate for change in our community?

Join us for a Second Hour after worship on Sunday, March 8th, when we learn more about homelessness in Hartford and try to get some answers to our many questions. Our own Barbara Shaw will moderate our panel that includes Shanta Wiley, a formerly homeless mom; Matt Morgan, Executive Director of Journey Home, an organization seeking solutions to end homelessness; and Lauren Fair, Director of Social Services at the Salvation Army/Marshall House. These folks will help us understand more about homelessness, especially for families in Hartford, the crisis response system and how we might help advocate for improving the system.

Bring your questions, your concerns and your passion to make a difference in the lives of homeless people like the ones we’ve met in our shelter.

Our guests are so grateful for a safe and warm place to sleep. They continually mention how caring and loving Immanuel hosts are. And our good food has quite a reputation among the other church shelters—not only do we have delicious dinners, but we also have terrific eggs, sausage and waffles for breakfast! In February, we had from 10-15 people each night: 3-4 moms, 1-2 dads, and about 5-8 preschoolers each night! Our Fellowship Hall, where we serve dinner and breakfast, is also a great place for little ones to run as well as read books, draw pictures or play games before they go to sleep in the Chapel.

We’re grateful to almost 80 volunteers who cook, host, do laundry, sanitize cots and step in as substitutes. If you would like to share in this effort, please sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact Nancy Rion, nancyrion2@gmail.com. We need a few additional hosts each week and hosts and food providers for March 31st—our last shelter night. Please contact Nancy or sign up in Fellowship Hall if you’d like to help.

Last November, most of us thought that it would be nice to provide a shelter at Immanuel to help some families during the winter. Few of us realized the enormous impact the experience would have on us, individually and as a church community. Our
interactions with our guests and our reflections with each other have been an unanticipated special gift. We’ve shared laughter, tears, prayers and outrage. We’ve witnessed resilience, incredible patience and courage as the adults try to be good parents while they try to figure out how to get enough money to be able to rent an apartment. And it’s a reminder of how lucky most of us are and how much we take for granted.

Nancy Rion and Barbara Shaw

Pizza & Paint Event Fundraiser for All Ages: Sunday, March 22nd, at 11:30am, in the Parlor
Let your creative juices flow and enjoy a pizza lunch as our youth group serves you on Sunday, March 22nd in the Parlor. Children ($5) and adults of all ages ($20) will be provided with all the necessary supplies and tutorial to create their own masterpiece while having fun. Invite your friends and family and support our youth group’s mission trip fund at the same time. Please contact Tracy Gormley for more information at 860-527-8121.

THE SILENT AUCTION IS COMING!!!
Palm Sunday (April 5th)
Please be sure to leave room in your after-church schedule on Palm Sunday (April 5th) for the Silent Auction! One of Immanuel’s perennial highlights, it’s a great opportunity to show your competitive spirit and bid early and often on a delightful range of items, activities and vacations! Stay tuned for details on some of the usual favorites as well as new and exciting opportunities.

There are still opportunities for you to volunteer to help or to donate. Sign up with Jennifer Gaudet after worship or by emailing jennifergaudet@sbcglobal.net.

And Facebook users, please be sure to share the Immanuel FB EVENT to help publicize this fun! As always, all are welcome at church, but your friends can show up after too!

ANNOUNCING...IMMANUEL PRIDE T-SHIRTS!!
Nothing can replace (and shouldn’t) our distinctive green T-shirts that help us stand out in a crowd at events. But as summer and vacation time approach, we have an exciting new opportunity for you to show your Immanuel pride and your fashion sense. All adult sizes are available, including women’s cut!

Watch for an order table after worship or email Jennifer Gaudet (jennifergaudet@sbcglobal.net) for details and to order. $25 gets you one of these (model not included).

Brought to you by the Fundraising Committee – all proceeds go toward the ICC budget that allows us to be a sustaining member of our community in so many ways.
**Immanuel Seeks Children’s Music Leader**

Do you love kids? Do you like to dance and sing? Come join us as a children’s music leader at Immanuel where you can be creative and fun while you lead our Pre-K kids and older in the exploration of a variety of music styles. These can include vocal, choral, instrumental and age appropriate movement styles that correspond to their monthly faith development themes in the classroom and occasional presentation of these in worship.

You will be compensated up to $100 (based on experience and talent) per 45-minute session during the program year of September 1st through May 31st. These select Sunday sessions involve leading the children in the classroom and occasional musical/movement offerings in worship, and planning and leading the musical component of our annual Christmas pageant.

If you are flexible, reliable, creative and fun then don’t delay, apply today!

Contact Tracy Gormley at tracy.gormleyiccucc@gmail.com for a complete job description and more information.

**Youth Partnership Trip Fundraiser**

Please help support our 7 youth that will travel to Dessau, Germany to continue Immanuel’s International Partnership by contributing to our “Envelope Wall” fundraiser. On the bulletin board in Fellowship hall you will find envelopes labeled with numbers from 1 to 100. Simply choose the envelope that corresponds to the donation that you would like to make, fill it with cash or a check (made out to ICC) and place it in the offering plate. Your donation will be recorded on your Immanuel giving statement. Please contact Tracy Gormley with questions or for more information.

**Newcomers’ Brunch – Sunday, March 29, 2020**

Have you visited us recently? Are you new to the area? Looking for a church? Just curious to know what Immanuel is about? Then join us for a Newcomers’ Brunch on Sunday, March 29, 2020 after worship. We will share a meal and talk about those things that are important in the life of Immanuel Congregational Church and to the lives of the people who worship here. It’s a great opportunity to ask any and all questions you might have and also make some personal connections. If you are a Newcomer to Immanuel, we hope you will join us. You can register for the brunch by calling the church office at 860-527-8121 or contacting John Scully at jdscully@comcast.net or 860-521-4668.

**Jessie’s Community Garden**

Although Spring has not quite ‘sprung’, it is time to start thinking about the coming season. As in the previous 2 years, we will be growing fresh vegetables for our neighbors including the Loaves & Fishes soup kitchen, located on Immanuel premises. If you would like to stay on or become a part of the gardening team, please let me know soon. You can reach me by e-mail: joanna.gerber@att.net or speak to me directly. You will also find a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall during the months of March and April. **Let’s make it happen!**
March Birthdays

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>Owen Miller</td>
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<td>Keith Powell</td>
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<td>Jacqueline Jones</td>
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<td>Jeffrey Vanags</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Maya Salvio</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Grace Donahue</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Elaine Popielarski</td>
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<td>Jack French</td>
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<td>Scott Reeves</td>
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<td>Robert Walker</td>
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<td>Don Gillette</td>
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<td>Christopher Liddell</td>
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<td>Luke Dunlap</td>
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<td>Ruth Dunlap</td>
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<td>Lu St. Germain</td>
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<td>David Crespi</td>
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<td>Jennifer Geisler</td>
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Diapers Needed for Adam Ouffi
Diaper donations would again be a tremendous help to the Syrian family that Immanuel continues to help navigate our country! Size six diapers, please. Diapers may be put in the labeled basket in Fellowship Hall.
Thank you, in advance!

Faces of Homelessness Visits Christian Kids!
Our middle school group recently welcomed two speakers from Faces of Homelessness, a speaker’s bureau of Hands on Hartford. They shared their firsthand experiences with homelessness, emphasizing what it’s like to be homeless and the causes of homelessness. Our hope is that our young people left with a greater understanding of homelessness and will strive to break the stigma surrounding these issues and encourage others to get involved.
Thank you, Faces of Homelessness!
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<tr>
<td>1 8:30am Bible Study</td>
<td>2 7pm Diaconate Meeting</td>
<td>3 9am Hartford Public Schools Cooking Program</td>
<td>4 11am Worship Planning Committee Meeting</td>
<td>5 6:30pm Lenten Taize Worship</td>
<td>6 10:30am Yoga</td>
<td>7 9am Voce Rehearsal</td>
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<td>8:30am Chancel Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>9 6:30pm Social Action &amp; Mission Committee Meeting</td>
<td>9am Marshall House Interfaith Coalition Meeting</td>
<td>10 8am Charter Oak Health Van</td>
<td>11 6:30pm Lenten Taize Worship</td>
<td>12 10:30am Yoga</td>
<td>13 6:30pm Lenten Taize Worship</td>
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<td>10am Worship, including Church School</td>
<td>10pm Second Hour: ICC Emergency Shelter</td>
<td>11:15am Second Hour: ICC Emergency Shelter</td>
<td>11:15am Stewardship Meeting</td>
<td>11:15am ICC Emergency Shelter</td>
<td>12 10:30am Yoga</td>
<td>15 6:30pm Lenten Taize Worship</td>
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<td>15 8:30am Bible Study</td>
<td>16 7pm Council Meeting</td>
<td>17 9am Hartford Public Schools Cooking Program</td>
<td>18 12 Noon Charter Oak Health Van</td>
<td>19 6:30pm Lenten Taize Worship</td>
<td>20 10:30am Yoga</td>
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<td>9am Chancel Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>17 9am Hartford Public Schools Cooking Program</td>
<td>5pm Emergency Shelter</td>
<td>5pm Racial Justice Lenten Study</td>
<td>6:30pm Lenten Taize Worship</td>
<td>7:30pm Chancel Choir</td>
<td>22 8:30am Bible Study</td>
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<td>10am Worship, including Church School</td>
<td>23 8:30am Bible Study</td>
<td>9am Hartford Public Schools Cooking Program</td>
<td>12 Noon Charter Oak Health Van</td>
<td>6pm Prayer Shawl Knitting Group</td>
<td>7pm Finance Committee Meeting</td>
<td>24 8:30am Bible Study</td>
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<td>11:15am Second Hour: Gospel Choir</td>
<td>9am Hartford Public Schools Cooking Program</td>
<td>5pm Emergency Shelter</td>
<td>5pm Racial Justice Lenten Study</td>
<td>7pm Gospel Choir</td>
<td>7pm Finance Committee Meeting</td>
<td>25 8:30am Bible Study</td>
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<td>5pm Emergency Shelter</td>
<td>5pm Racial Justice Lenten Study</td>
<td>7pm Finance Committee Meeting</td>
<td>7:30pm PFLAG Meeting</td>
<td>26 8:30am Bible Study</td>
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<td>10am Worship, including Church School</td>
<td>11am Worship Planning Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>7:30pm Chancel Choir</td>
<td>27 8:30am Bible Study</td>
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<td>11:20am Pizza &amp; Paint Youth Fundraiser</td>
<td>12 Noon Charter Oak Health Van</td>
<td>1pm Prayer Shawl Knitting Group</td>
<td>10am Owl Training—High School</td>
<td>1pm Prayer Shawl Knitting Group</td>
<td>28 8:30am Bible Study</td>
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<td>12 Noon Charter Oak Health Van</td>
<td>1pm Prayer Shawl Knitting Group</td>
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The Voice
Youth Group Serves at Church By The Pond
Our youth served 51 participants at Church By The Pond in Bushnell Park on Saturday, February 22\textsuperscript{nd} in the beautiful sunshine and chilly February winds. From 20-60 people typically gather for the service every Saturday regardless of the weather. Many are homeless and living in shelters. All come to hear God’s Word, most seem to feel the comfort of the liturgies they learned as children, and nearly everyone participates in the sacrament of Holy Communion. Our group worships with the participants, greets those present with a smile and kind word and offers them toiletries donations or a bagged lunch. It’s a great experience and one that we have participated in for the last four years.

Earth Week at Immanuel

Sunday, April 19
Walk, Bike, Bus, Carpool or Drive your Electric Car to Church!
Eco-Kids Bike Brigade
Registration Opens at 9:30 AM
Second Hour: “Another Spring” Water Colors by Jane Carroll
Hear about the nature paintings hanging in our gallery through May.

Wednesday April 22
50th Anniversary of Earth Day!
Family Neighborhood Nature Walk, 4:30 PM
“Signs of Spring in the City”
Walk around the church to look for signs of Spring and pick up trash.
Vegetarian Pizza Party for Immanuelites of All Ages at 5:30PM
EAC hosts this dinner: please sign up and tell us your pizza choice!
“The First Earth Day”
A presentation by Karim Ahmed, organizer for the first Earth Day!

Friday, April 24
Youth Strike for the Climate!!

Sunday April 26
Earth Day Service at Immanuel 10:00AM
“The Joy of Going Green”
Sermon by Lynn Johnson, music by the Chancel and Gospel Choirs
Second Hour: “A Journey of the Universe”
A strikingly beautiful visual journey of our 14 billion years of evolution, a lesson in hope.