

THE MOSAIC

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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
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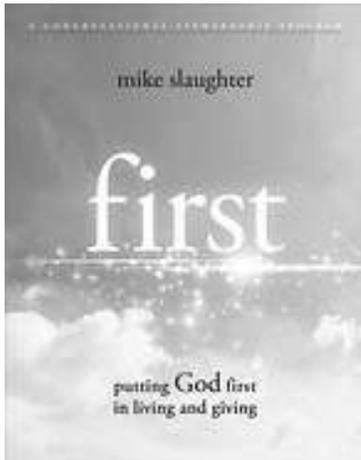
Office: (518) 465-5161

emmanuelalbany@juno.com

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Pastoral Ponderings



Do we worship idols? Our knee-jerk response is probably, “Of course not.” On deeper reflection, we might discover other answers.

We are made in God’s image and are meant to be creators of life and hope, not the consumers of our culture’s shiny gods. We have the ability to change the world and create a legacy that will live on in the generations that follow us. That legacy starts when we take exercise financial discipline and fulfill the call to generosity that God has placed in all of us.

We will reflect on God’s generosity and our response as we experience our stewardship program, *First: Putting God First in Living and Giving*. There will be opportunities to explore this theme in worship, in a weeknight discussion group, among the children in the Junior Class, and in at-home devotions.

The four-week emphasis, from October 13-November 3, will invite us to name the idols in our own lives and to name the ways these idols enslave us, holding us back from living in the true freedom that God desires for us. We’ll be challenged to think about the places that money, work and debt have in our lives. What are common understandings of these things, and how might the witness of Scripture and our mutual encouragement lead us to some different understandings? We’ll be challenged to ask ourselves what it means to be faithful, to save, and to give. How do we balance all the competing interests in our lives? What priorities does God want us to have? Finally, we’ll be challenged to give with our hearts, not out of obligation or a sense of duty. Instead, we’ll be challenged to give the way God gives – freely, fully, with no favorites of expectations of repayment.

The goal of this program is not to make us feel guilty, nor to prescribe a cookie-cutter approach to these issues. The goal is for each of us to ask new questions of ourselves and to be open to the possibility that God will lead us in new directions. Please join us for *First: Putting God First in Living and Giving*.

Blessings,
Kathy

From Service to Others...

World Mission Offering to be Received



Dear Friends:

Part of what it means to be a follower of Christ is to share the good news of Jesus not only in your neighborhood, but also around the world. Each year, the World Mission Offering (WMO) provides an opportunity to understand what is happening worldwide through International Ministries and to support those important mission efforts.

In our worship services since September 15, we have been gaining information about the World Mission Offering using the theme, "Embrace the Cause." You and your children and grandchildren will remember how God promised Abram that all the peoples on earth would be blessed through him. Genesis 12:3b reminds us of how we are called to be a blessing to others. We can bless others by being active in mission and embracing the cause of Christ in our community and globally.

We celebrate how our gifts make possible the ministries of 109 long-term missionaries and more than 1800 short-term missionaries and volunteers. They along with more than 200 partner organizations, work in more than 70 countries in:

- Evangelism
- Health and Healing
- Anti-human trafficking
- Theological Education
- Economic Development
- Education
- Peace and Refuge

When we "Embrace the Cause", God will lead us to provide increased support for our worldwide mission. **We will receive the World Mission Offering on Sundays, September 29 and October 6.** Envelopes will be provided for your convenience.

Deadline for the November issue of *the MOSAIC* is October 18.

The Music Company Orchestra in Concert

The Music Company Orchestra under the direction of Jerry Lanoue, is a non-profit community orchestra in the Tri-Cities area of N.Y. State. Founded in 1974, the Orchestra performs concerts so that those who would not ordinarily hear orchestral music can experience the excitement of a live concert.

On Saturday, **October 26 at 3:00 p.m.** the Orchestra will present a concert **to benefit FOCUS ministries.** Bring a friend and join us for this special musical event.

**Remember the
Food Pantry**

October: deodorant



Adult Spiritual Formation



We are living into a new Sunday morning format with children's educational opportunities taking place during worship. The new format also includes new and different opportunities for adult education. Take advantage of any or all of the following:

Family Matters – Meets in the library on the first Sunday of October, November and December at 11:30. Under the leadership of Marilyn and Tony Malone, this group will ask questions about how we can support each other in our extended families and explore the simple but difficult parts of life that are a part of family life. In the past we have explored how we share faith experiences with our family, what truth looks like, how we think that ideal family may look and how does our family of origin still play a role in our current family. We will be discussing sexual orientation and the family in the first session on October 6.

Contemporary Christian Concerns – Meets in the parlor at 11:30 every Sunday, except when there is a diaconate meeting. Discussions are on a wide-ranging set of topics from personal discipleship to more corporate ways of being the Body of Christ. Upcoming classes include:

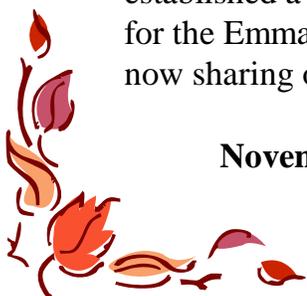
October 6 and 13 – Martin Luther King Jr. called for us to be lovestruck with each other, not colorblind toward each other. To be love struck is to care, to have deep compassion and to be concerned for each and every individual, including the poor and vulnerable. The adult Sunday School on October 6th and 13th will open a conversation on racism. In the era of a black United States President, one might surmise that racism is a thing of the past. In Michelle Alexander's critically acclaimed and well researched book "The New Jim Crow" she opens our eyes to how our legal and social structures in this country enforce a caste system based on race. Reading her book is not required but well worth your time. Come and share in this discussion and learn more

From *Sojourners*: "The New Jim Crow," a book by Michele Alexander, is a call to action for everyone concerned with racial justice and an important tool for anyone concerned with understanding and dismantling this oppressive system."

October 27 – "From Malden to Rangoon: The Judson Legacy", led by Liselle LaFrance
Mark 16:15 *"Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation."*
Matthew 28:19 *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."*

This session will give an overview of the life of Adoniram Judson and the missionary service that he and his wife Ann Hasseltine Judson began in Burma (today Myanmar) in 1813. Their work led to the formation of the first Baptist association in America, inspired many Americans to become or support missionaries, translated the Bible into Burmese, and established a number of Baptist churches in Burma. Their story holds particular resonance for the Emmanuel community as we become better acquainted with the Karen congregation now sharing our worship space.

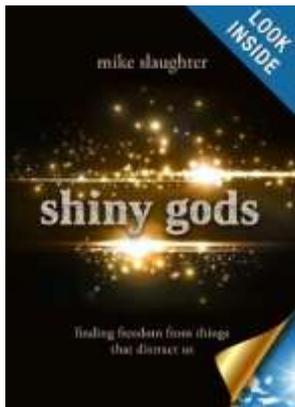
November 3 – The Judson's Living Legacy: Conversations with Karen Baptists in America 200 years later



More Educational Opportunities...



Feasting on the Word – New! Meets at Emmanuel on Wednesdays 1:00-2:00 p.m. beginning September 25. Using a curriculum published by Westminster John Knox Press, this study is based on the Revised Common Lectionary, and will usually parallel the Scriptural passages used in Sunday worship. We will learn about the background of the Biblical stories and discover ways that they can relate to us today. In sharing with each other, we open ourselves to new understandings of what God is saying through Scripture! If you would like transportation, please call Marilyn or the Church office (465-5161)



Book Discussion Group:

“shiny gods: finding freedom from things that distract us”

So many of us are burdened by debt and anxiety about money. The Introduction to Mike Slaughter’s book, *shiny gods* is subtitled “A Journey of Hope”. The book aims to encourage readers to find ways to eliminate debt, live more simply, and become more effective servants to the Kingdom of God.

This fall at Emmanuel we will be examining the stewardship themes represented in the book, *shiny gods*. The book can be purchased for \$10, either through the church or on your own through Cokesbury or Amazon. There is also an e-book edition, which can be purchased through Cokesbury. There will be 3 book discussion sessions held in the evening (one on Sunday, Monday or Tuesday) at a local coffee house or watering hole during the weeks of October 14, 21 and 28. Watch for a signup sheet in fellowship hall, where you can order the book and express your preference about which day and what location suit you best.

Unplug the Christmas Machine – This half-day workshop is designed to help participants create a more joyful, less stressful holiday season. It addresses questions like *How can I reduce the stress of preparing for Christmas? How can I make my celebration more spiritual and less materialistic? How can I help my children see that Christmas is about more than just presents?* The workshop will include individual exercises to clarify personal values and to make a Christmas plan, as well as time to pool insights and share wisdom. *Unplug the Christmas Machine* will be offered on **November 3**, from 1:00-5:00 at Pastor Kathy’s home.

First Presbyterian Church, Albany, (corner of State and Willett) continues its 250th anniversary Celebration with the Lamar Lecture on Saturday, October 12, at 4:00 p.m. The speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Long, professor of preaching at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia. Professor Long will speak on *Trouble in the Old Mainline Churches: Parabolic Answers to Honest Questions*. The lecture is free and open to the public. For further information call at 449-7332, e-mail at info@firstpresalbany.org

Opportunities to Volunteer with FOCUS

Breakfast Express: Tuesday & Wednesday through October

Winter Breakfast: starts Nov. 5, Tuesday through Thursday

Food Pantry: ongoing M-Fri. 10-1

Call Beth at 443-0460 to sign up.



“Empty Bowls”

Hunger Action Network of NYS
& FOCUS Churches of Albany
Working Together to End Hunger



Choose a Bowl... Enjoy Gourmet Soup
October 24, 5-7:30 pm

at

The Linda, WAMC's Performing Arts Studio
339 Central Ave., Albany

Reservations: \$25 per person

443-0460 or info@focuschurches.net

**HAPPY
HALLOWEEN**

Halloween Party & Supper

October 25 at 6:00

Potluck supper (hotdogs/beverages provided)

Bring a 'Halloween' themed dish to share.

Costumes encouraged but not required, invite your friends/guests and enjoy the fun!
Have ideas for how to make this especially great? We are looking for folks to help with the planning. Contact Barbara either by email: lahutb@gmail.com or 766-9333

SPECIAL NOTE: Please save ½ pint milk containers and bring them to church (washed and dried, please) on Oct. 20. We will be using them for an activity at the party.

BAPTIST PEACE FELLOWSHIP OF NORTH AMERICA
PRESENTS THE 29TH ANNUAL

SUMMER CONFERENCE

FOCUSING ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
"THERE CAN NEVER BE WORLD PEACE AS LONG
AS YOU MAKE WAR AGAINST MOTHER EARTH."
-CHIEF OREN LYONS, FAITHKEEPER OF THE ONANDAGA NATION

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Note: If you plan to attend, you must have a valid passport or enhanced driver's license.



Our September healing service focused on gratitude.

Two EBC members chose to express their thanks to Emmanuel:

From Audrey:

Dear Emmanuel Baptist Church:

I want to thank you for the many times you have been there for me and my family ~ The wonderful people who are always there when needed. I love coming to church and being in Sunday School. Thank God for bringing Kathy into our lives.

From Bernie:

Thanks for accepting me into Emmanuel Baptist Church as member. I've been involved in Food Pantry for years. In 1987 I was at front door of 8th Step every day. That was a folk music venue and took place at First Pres from 1972-1987. Thanks.



The FOCUS Winter Breakfast orientation (for returning and new volunteers) will take place on Tuesday, October 29, 5-7 PM at Westminster Pres. Dinner is included as well as a presentation by The Mental Health Players. They will perform skits/scenarios that will help all of us learn more about our interactions with each other.

Notice of Meetings...

- October 6** ~ "Family Matters"
- 8** ~ Coordinating Council @ Donley/Wilkerson's
- 19** ~ Work Day
- 20** ~ Diaconate & Quarterly Congregational Meeting

Entertainment Books are Here!

This year the profits will be used for "Span the Gap" (to lessen the budget deficit). The cost is \$25 for the Albany book, and books for other cities are also available. Get one for yourself, and invite friends and family to purchase one too! Speak with Marilyn Malone if you are interested.

Work Day Planned

Saturday, October 19

9 a.m. to Noon

Lunch will be provided.



Concert Scheduled

October 22 at Noon

Franz Liszt and his Forebears--the progress of piano music from Haydn to Liszt works by Haydn, Beethoven, Czerny, Liszt

Michael Clement, piano

Admission free/donations appreciated

Happy Birthday...

- | | | |
|------------------|--|------------------|
| Chris Moaton | | 1 st |
| Marilyn Malone | | 6 th |
| Jim Woodard | | 6 th |
| Warren Burton | | 6 th |
| Bien Baez | | 11 th |
| Adam Barelski | | 14 th |
| Taylor Stroebel | | |
| 16 th | | |
| Bernie Kennedy | | 20 th |
| Madeline Green | | |
| 23 rd | | |
| Heather Green | | 28 th |
- If your birthday is not published in our monthly listing, please notify Dorothy at 465-5161.*



**Church Office Closed:
October 14**

Emmanuel Baptist Church
275 State St.
Albany, NY 12210

