

THE MOSAIC

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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
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Father,
forgive
them, for
they do
not know
what
they do
Truly, I say to you, today
you will be with me in
Paradise. Woman this is your
son
This
is your
mother
My God,
my God,
w h y
have you
forsaken
me ?
I thirst.
Father,
into your
hands I

Here's some good news for winter-weary souls: the season of Lent begins on March 5 and the word *Lent* is related to the word for *Spring*. If Lent is here, Spring cannot be far behind.

Lent is the church season of preparation for Easter. It is 40 days long, recalling Jesus' 40 days of temptation in the desert and the ancient Israelites' 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. The season might be considered a sort of spring-cleaning for the soul, a time to clear out the accumulated clutter and refocus on spiritual priorities.

Our worship experiences across this season will focus on the seven last words, or sayings, of Jesus. Taking into account all of the gospels, we find seven last utterances from the cross. One of these sayings will shape each of our Sunday morning worship times and we will hear the last one "It is finished" on Maundy Thursday.

A person's dying words are often believed to have special significance. Jesus' last words include

words of comfort and farewell, prayers for himself and for others, and perhaps even a sort of setting his earthly affairs in order. Join us for worship as we ponder these words together.

Another opportunity for spiritual spring cleaning comes in the form of three sessions on prayer. They will be offered during the Sunday School hour on March 2, 16 and 23 and

Continued...

during the Wednesday Bible study hour at 1:00 on March 12, 19, and 26. These sessions will explore different styles of prayer and offer prayer exercises to continue during the week. The time together will include conversation about those prayer exercises. We hope to learn from each other and from the writing of other spiritual guides. Whether or not you usually attend Sunday School or the Wednesday Bible study, please consider making this your Lenten discipline.

Blessings,
Kathy



Ash Wednesday ~ March 5
Contemplative Worship

6:00 p.m. in the parlor

*Like those who have gone before, walking this road of Christian faith,
this day we too wear the mark of the cross. . .*

*As you wear the mark of the cross may you be mindful of ways in which the cross
has already marked your life and may you find daily, through this Lenten journey,
ways in which God is calling you to share with the world the love and forgiveness
which you have already come to know in the gritty, humble, dirty, sacred mark of
God – the Cross.*

~ Elizabeth A. Long-Higgins

Lenten Evensong
Cathedral of All Saints

March 9 ~ 3:00 p.m.

There is an ancient Christian tradition of praying at specific times of the day. Evensong is an adaptation of an evening prayer service which is mostly music. Those who are interested in experiencing this kind of prayer and worship within another stream of Christian tradition are invited to a Lenten Evensong service at the Cathedral of All Saints in Albany. We plan to meet at Emmanuel at 2:30 and walk to the service together.



Coming this Spring!!!

Easter Party

Saturday, April 19, 10 a.m. to noon

Games; Craft Activities; Easter Egg coloring; Treasure Hunts and more!

Lunch included

Plan to attend, volunteer to help, bring friends!

Watch for more details

Sponsored by CGD Commission

From Service to Others...

America for Christ Offering
to be Received



In our community there are countless people in need of Jesus' love and uplifting touch. You may contemplate how you can reach out and make a difference in so many lives. It's a difficult challenge to take on as an individual, but as American Baptists partnering together, we can make a difference by supporting the America for Christ Offering 2014. This year's theme—"Seek Justice," based on Isaiah 1:17—is a biblical reminder that Jesus' public ministry was all about advocacy, engagement and compassion for people in need. Through the work of American Baptist Home Mission Societies, which is supported by the America for Christ Offering, we can participate with our Lord in seeking justice for those in our churches and neighborhoods. Did you know the following?

- In 2011, the official poverty rate was 15 percent, with 46.2 million people in poverty (U.S. Census Bureau).
- Immigrants largely arrive through legal channels. Foreign-born people in the United States numbered 39.9 million in 2010: 44 percent were naturalized citizens; 24 percent were legal permanent residents; 29 percent were unauthorized migrants; and 3 percent were temporary legal residents, such as students or temporary workers (Center for American Progress).
- In 2009, 7.2 million people were in prison or under official supervision, such as probation. This population is larger than the state of Washington. Four in 10 prisoners return to state prisons within three years of release (businessinsider.com/11-facts-about-prisons-2011).
- Approximately 6 million students in grades seven through 12 are struggling to read at grade level. Among the highest, 70 percent of eighth graders read below the standard (Alliance for Excellent Education).
- Teacher quality is one of the most significant factors related to student achievement. In the United States, 14 percent of new teachers resign by the end of their first year, 33 percent leave within their first three years, and almost 50 percent leave by their fifth year (Alliance for Excellent Education).

Our mission and ministry are needed now more than ever. The America for Christ Offering 2014 supports our churches, neighborhood action programs, advocacy, training and community impact by facilitating leadership workshops and conferences, promoting excellent discipleship resources through Judson Press and providing opportunities for churches, individuals and youth groups to participate in home mission through Volunteer Ministries.

We will receive the America for Christ Offering on two Sundays, March 23 and 30. Please give generously. Together, we can change lives as we "seek justice" as followers of Jesus Christ. Together, we can make a difference. "*Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow*" (Isaiah 1:17).



Soup Supper for Shelter

On March 14, Emmanuel will provide dinner for the guests of the Overflow Shelter. If you can provide a pot of soup, some bread or dessert, please contact Karen Kendall. Guests are always grateful for these special meals. Thank you.



recommended by Dan Buttry

Pray the Devil Back to Hell
Lenten Movie Night
Friday, April 4
6:30 p.m.



Join us for a film that portrays prayer combined with action for justice. *Pray the Devil Back to Hell* tells the story of Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace, a group organized by Leymah Gbowee, a social worker who eventually received the Nobel Peace Prize. By convincing the Christian and Muslim women of Monrovia, Liberia to work in partnership, the group's efforts led to peace after years of civil war. Thousands of women — ordinary mothers, grandmothers, aunts and daughters, both Christian and Muslim — came together to pray for peace and then staged a silent protest outside of the Presidential Palace. Armed only with white T-shirts and the courage of their convictions, they demanded a resolution to the country's civil war. Their actions were the critical element which brought about an agreement during the stalled peace talks.

A pizza supper will be served. Join us for this inspiring film and conversation afterwards. The film depicts the reality of the brutality of war. It is not recommended for children. Parental discretion is advised.

Part-time Coordinator Sought

The Capital Region Ecumenical Organization (CREO) is seeking a part-time coordinator. Duties will include scheduling meetings, handling communications, promoting events, producing a newsletter, and maintaining records, among others. Work will be flexible, with an average of 2-4 hours per week. The salary is \$3,000 per year. The coordinator would need to provide his or her computer and workspace.

To apply, send a resume and cover letter highlighting interest and experience in ecumenical activities to Ian and Edith Leet, 951 Myrtle Avenue, Albany, NY 12203-1817 or by e-mail to ileet@nycap.rr.com. The deadline is March 1. To obtain a copy of the job description, e-mail the Leets or call them at 482-6612. Further information about CREO is on its website, <http://www.capecumenical.org/>.

CREO Celebrates 50 Years

Save the date, Sunday, May 18, for a celebration of 50 years of ecumenical activity. The Capital Region Ecumenical Organization (CREO) will host a panel discussion at 4 p.m. at Emmanuel-Friedens Church, 218 Nott Terrace, in Schenectady. Representatives of several faith traditions will discuss how the Vatican II's Decree on Ecumenism has affected their denominations, especially locally. Time for questions and comments will follow. Refreshments will be available at 3:30 p.m. before the program, and the program will close with an ecumenical worship service at 5:30 p.m. More information to come.

Lords and Ladies,

Prepare and mark your calendars for May 3rd. Travelers, countrymen and countrywomen from all parts of the region will gather in the Great Hall at Emmanuel for the fourth Medieval Feast. They will be filled with delicious food in the Medieval style. All will smile, laugh, and look in amazement as singers entertain, magicians surprise, poets wax poetic, and storytellers cast spells of intrigue. Auction items for the evening include:

An Adirondack weekend getaway; Access to the church tower with friends to watch the 4th of July fireworks; Restaurant gift cards; Craft weaving, pottery, and more unique items to come.



Tell your friends and buy your tickets early to reserve your spot. Call Dorothy at church or Edith 482-6612 for tickets. Costumes are not required but add to the fun. If you are a seamstress, we have some simple patterns you could use to create costumes. You can make this event a success by volunteering to help cook (Friday or Saturday), set up (Friday or Saturday), make trenchers, serve and wait on tables during the event, or clean up on Saturday night. And just as important as all of these tasks, is to spread the word. Tell your friends about this fun evening. If you use Facebook, "like" the event and share it. All the proceeds of this event will support the restoration work on the exterior of Emmanuel's buildings.

FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry presents...

"Comfort Food Night"

March 28, 5-7:30 pm

at First Presbyterian

VEGETARIAN CHILI • BEEF CHILI • DESSERTS SALAD • MAC & CHEESE • 50/50 RAFFLE
Featuring throwback sitcoms from the '60s

Tickets \$8. Children 6-13, \$4
Children 5 and under, free

Please RSVP by calling Lorraine Houk at 443-0460 or mail payment, by check, to:
FOCUS 275 State St., Albany, NY 12210

Daylight Saving Time Begins
March 9 ~ Spring Forward!



Notice of Meetings...

March 4 ~ Coordinating Council: 5:30 at church
9 ~ Diaconate
25 ~ Teacher's Meeting: 5:30 at Beth's

Men's Gathering Scheduled

Emmanuel men are invited to meet for lunch at the 76 Diner at 11:45 on Wednesday, March 5. If you plan to attend, please contact Bob Hunziker or Roy Mallory so adequate seating can be arranged. Hope to see you there!



Work Day...Saturday March 29...

We will address needs within Fellowship Hall and the staircases of the Education Building. Needs include (lots of) painting, moving a piano, and addressing some electrical issues. We'll meet at 9 a.m. Saturday morning. Please bring your paint brush and work clothes, and we'll all share lunch afterward.

Do you see concerns at Emmanuel that need some TLC ("tender loving care")? Please speak with anyone on Corporate Management to expand our list of tasks. This makes a big difference for all of us. Thank you. (TL)

Teacher's Meeting Scheduled

Christian Growth and Development Commission is planning a teacher's meeting and supper at Beth Malone's house on Tuesday, March 25 at 5:30. The agenda will include sharing what's going well and what improvements need to happen, time for teachers to gather by class, and ideas about curriculum and Children's Day. If you have particular issues for discussion, please let us know ahead of time.

Please RSVP to Beth at bethamalone@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!

**Remember the
Food Pantry**

March: toilet paper

Needed: Microwave

Emmanuel's kitchen takes advantage of microwave oven technology very frequently. Our old unit is now electrically unsafe. Do you have a gently used, or new, microwave oven to help us out? We are looking for two (or more) countertop microwaves, with a generally larger capacity. Family size or full-size (1.4 cu. ft. or better) with strong power (1100 Watts or more) would be optimal.

Please contact Amy Palmer or Barbara Lahut if you have a potential donation. Thanks!

Save the Date

July 20

Baseball at the Joe

Join Emmanuel friends as we enjoy America's favorite pastime... *Baseball!* Watch for details in future newsletters. If you have questions in the meantime, you may speak with Andrea or Frank.

**Deadline for the April issue of
the MOSAIC is March 18.**

Happy Birthday...

March

Betty Jordan
Sally Cole
Jonathan Malone
Lucy Wong
Olivia LaBarge



1st
2nd
10th
22nd
30th

If your birthday is not published in our monthly listing, please notify Dorothy at 465-5161.



Spring Begins March 20!!!

Emmanuel Baptist Church
275 State St.
Albany, NY 12210

