

THE MOSAIC

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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
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Pastoral Ponderings



*So, friends, every day do something that won't compute. Love the Lord.
Love the world. Work for nothing. Take all that you have and be poor.
Love someone who does not deserve it. . . . Practice Resurrection.*

~ Wendell Berry, in Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front

On the day after Easter, I read a note written on-line by a pastor I've never met. Since I have never met him, I can only take his words at face value. Basically he was bemoaning the fact that on Easter we get all dressed up, eat a lot of sugar, stuff ourselves with lamb or other delights and more sweets in a supposed celebration of the Risen Christ and then thank God when it is all over on Monday. He ended by asking 'I wonder how our faith journey would change if we took the idea of Resurrection as something more than a "once a year" event? I wonder what would happen if we came to realize that we should be living in the Resurrection all year long?'

OK, so the truth of the matter is that Easter is the climax of the church year. It's one day that many of us pastors feel a lot of stress leading up to and when it's over, I can see feeling let-down and maybe indulging in a bit of a pity party. But again, I don't know this pastor, so that statement may be more about me than him.

I felt that our Easter celebrations at Emmanuel were glorious and authentic and maybe that's why I had a hard time commiserating with him. And more to the point, I realized that I think that most of us at EBC do see the idea of Resurrection as a more than once a year event. I think we do live into Resurrection all year long. And as soon as I said that to myself, I wondered "well, what exactly does that mean?"

Here's what I think it means to live into Resurrection: In his first sermon, Jesus quoted Isaiah 61 which speaks about bringing good news to the oppressed, binding up the broken-hearted, proclaiming release to captives and comforting those who mourn. Living into the Resurrection means doing those things, which are the ways that we embody Christ's Kingdom on earth. I believe that the Emmanuel community truly seeks to do this all year long – in our support of the food pantry and breakfast program, in our daily and weekly prayers, in our weekly worship which nurtures and sustains our connections to the Risen Christ and to each other, and in our financial gifts to a whole slew of ministries including work with prisoners and those just out of prison, and immigrants and refugees and college students and peace makers and migrant workers and those seeking to end sex trafficking.

For the next month, I'm going to be preaching from the book of Acts. Acts contains great stories about how the earliest Christians lived into the Resurrection. They are powerful stories with a lot to teach us. Plan to be there as we practice Resurrection together.

Blessings,
Kathy

A Bouquet of Song



*A recital of art songs, arias and popular music
fragrant with flowers*

Bienvenida Baez, soprano

Michael Clement, piano

Saturday Evening, May 10th, 7:30 pm

*Admission by free-will donation to benefit Focus Food Pantry
Reception at Intermission*



An Opportunity to Help

First Presbyterian Church, in partnership with the City of Albany, is hosting a “Group Cares Work Camp” the week of June 29-July 5. During that week, 426 campers from congregations all over the country, will be housed at Myers Middle School and spend the week working at the homes of residents in need within the City. The youth, with adult supervision, will provide free interior and exterior painting and small construction jobs free of charge to low-income, elderly, handicapped and/or veterans in the community.

Volunteers are needed to assist in a variety of areas: work site support (requires some construction experience); hospitality; public relations; general administration; Welcome to Albany Dinner. If you can donate some time and energy to this project, please contact Christy D’Ambrosio, Youth Director at First Pres. Call 423-4763 or write to Christy@firstpresalbany.org



gave

Some of us participated in a Lenten discipline of experimenting with new approaches to prayer. One week, our assignment was to pray daily with certain psalms, and also, to try writing a psalm ourselves. Here are some of the products of those attempts. Thanks to everyone who participated and permission to share their work.

A Psalm of Thanksgiving

Thank you, God, for sending me to a different land of your creation.

You lifted me up on the wings of an airplane and bore me safely to a place
where the people live differently and their words are strange to my ears.

You took me, all of me—my age and experience, my hopes and my discouragements,
my education and my ignorance—and you gave me useful work to do.

From your gift of living water, you directed me to pour out water for others.

You have opened my eyes to let me see the ugly and deadly effects of poverty, greed,
and self-interest.

You have opened my eyes to see the beauty, dignity, and peace of working together to serve you.

You have opened my ears to hear your praises sung by many voices and in many languages.

You have opened my heart to embrace my brothers and sisters of many colors and ages.

O God, in your infinite wisdom, you have given me what I need, and you have taught my heart
to understand that it is also what I want.

O God, strengthen me in the days ahead to keep my eyes, my ears, my mind, and my heart
open to all of your children.

Praise be to you, O God, forever and ever.

Amen

With love to the people of Bluefields,
Edith Leet



*Oh, God, my God,
Why do I feel so alone?
My heart is hungry for
 Your presence,
You are there, but make
 No sound.
You are there,
But all I feel is stillness
 and silence.
Oh, God, my God,
How do I know You ever hear me?
The wind whistles and the
 Rain pours down,
You are there on the wind
 And in the rain,
But I cannot make sense
 of what you say.
You are there in the clouds
 And the darkness,
But Your words are hard to
 hear above the roar of the city.
Come to me now, God;*

*Whisper in my ear and
Tell me that I am loved.
Tell me that You'll never leave me,
 not even for a fraction of a second.
Tell me that You see me struggle,
 and come to help.
Tell me that even in my worst moments,
 You will enfold me in Your arms
 and hold me tight,
 like a mother who is proud of her child.
Help me to feel Your presence in everything:
In word and water, sun and earth,
 Friends and family,
 neighbors and strangers.
Help me to see Your gracious light
 in everthing You have made.
Oh, God, my God,
Do not let me go; do not let me seek further,
But lift me up,
 out of the dark place in my soul,
And shatter it
 With one joyful laugh.*

by Becca Leet

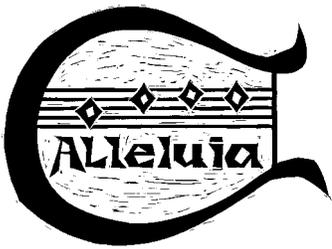
“O, Lord, Your Word is a Journey”
by Parmilla Allen

O Lord, your word is like a hedged, lighted pathway; it guides my thoughts and actions, it illuminates my mind, it strengthens my faith; each light pole satisfies the mind that life with the Lord is gratifying, continuous and rewarding. Energize me, O Lord, to continue in praise and belief in your word.



“Praise the Lord”

by Audrey Ford



God has given us everything we need. If you think you don't need God, remember our every breath depend on God. God allowed troubles to come to us so they can help us to be humble. God has done so much for us and we have so much to thank Him for. He has given us wisdom to be used wisely... we can't rush God. When God is ready, He will do what needs to be done, not what we would like him to do. Talk is cheap, God wants our conduct to back up our spiritual claim and promise. Praise God for his love and understanding.

O God, make known your love for me.

Each morning the sun rises on your creation and the birds sing of your might

I am not a sunbeam or a bird

Speak to me, Lord

In the depths of my being, make known your love for me.

I walk in your wonderful creation

I can see and smell and feel your presence all around me

And I long to be held in your arms

Thou I am not worthy

Yet you have created me as I am

And you know the longings of my heart

Cover me with your cleansing breath that my sins may be forgiven

Comfort me with your never ending love

Create me according to your design.

~ *Marilyn Malone*

Inside me lives the

risen King

Who has power to

Do anything

His power is just enough

to fill our every need.

Our prayers go out a'searching

to places that are unknown

Some pray by candle

Some pray by bead

Some coin to a wishin' well

It's all the same to me.

I am sure our Lord

has taken our prayers

right off the wind

But if Jesus our risen King is living

inside us

Then let us begin again.

Then let us begin again.

~ **Jeff Fish**

My soul blesses the Lord for He prunes my beauty
And He admires my growth
Oh, my soul blushes before the Lord
For He dazzles me with mist
 And sunlight and breathes in my aroma.
Praise ye, Lord!
My soul blesses the Lord for when He breathes on me,
 I dance on his light breath
And he watches over me.

~ Jeff Fish

God Wants us to Remember these things.

He is Our Good Shepherd

I will provide for your daily needs.
 For all the goodness we give thanks.
I am your Good Shepherd.
 Trust that He will provide.

I will care for you and protect you.

I know your heart. I know your name.

I am faithful in keeping my promises.

I will be there to forgive you.

I will be there to help you in times of trouble.

I will love you and take care of you and not fail you.

I will supply all your needs.

I will give you rest.

I will turn failure into success.

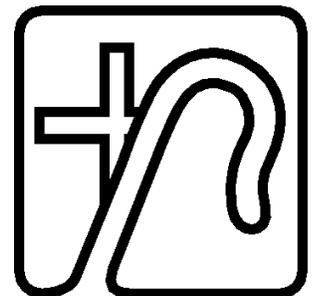
I will be your strength and redeemer.

I will bear your burdens.

I will be there on the dark and stormy days of life.

I will love you forever.

~ Marion Dickinson



From Service to Others...

CROP Walk Quickly Approaching

Karen Green is Emmanuel's recruiter for this year's CROP Walk, which will be held on Sunday, May 4. The Walk begins with registration at 12:30 and kicks off from First Lutheran Church (181 Western Ave) at 1:30. If you would like to participate as a walker, you may get your registration materials from Karen or if you wish to sponsor a walker, Karen can direct you to one of the Emmanuel team.



Faith and Hunger Network

FOCUS Churches joined with other organizations on April 9 for the event "Communities of Faith Working Together to End Hunger". The program included a welcome by Rev. Frances Wattman Rosenau of Westminster Presbyterian, a presentation by Jessica Pino of Hunger Solutions on childhood hunger, and a discussion of income inequality led by Mark Dunlea of Hunger Action Network of New York State (HANNYS) and Sara Niccoli of the New York State Labor Religion Coalition. We will be hearing more about these issues in the weeks to come. Material from the event is on the Witness Table. See Nancy Horan if you would like more information.

On May 11, Emmanuel children will deliver donations of laundry detergent to the Interfaith Shelter and while there, they will learn a bit about the facility and programs. Questions? Contact Karen Kendall.



The total received for the America for Christ Offering was \$637.
Thank you to all who contributed.

Peace Camp, July 14-19

Just a reminder – The BPFNA Summer Conference will be in St. Catharines, Ontario from July 14-19 on the campus of Brock University. With the theme of *Una Sola Creación/Une Seule Création/One Creation*, the week focuses on environmental justice and features an impressive lineup of speakers, musicians, workshops, and more.



More information on the conference leaders and a link to the registration form is online at: <http://www.bpfna.org/gather/summer-conference> Please note: If you are a FIRST-TIME attendee, speak with Pastor Kathy. There may be a voucher available to cover the registration fees (\$225 or \$75 for youth/children)

From Christian Growth & Development...

The Christian Growth and Development Commission hosted an eggs-traordinary Easter party on April 19! We were seeking to replace the traditional Easter Egg Hunt with a more meaningful event. Children participated in games, candy making, egg decorating and craft activities. That was followed by a Resurrection Egg hunt and a Bible treasure hunt for older children. Then everyone enjoyed lunch together.

There were 30 adults and 30 children in attendance, including a dozen from the Karen Baptist Church, and several families who have been marginally connected to Emmanuel. What a joy for us to be able to celebrate together! Many thanks to everyone who helped to make this event a success! (MM, BM, AF, ES, JW)



Notice of Meetings...

May 13 ~ Coordinating Council: 5:30, Lahut's
18 ~ Diaconate



“Against Prison Injustice” March & Rally

Monday, May 5th
12:30 pm
Albany, East Capitol Park

(Eagle St. between Washington Ave. and State St.)

Keynote Speaker: Cornel West

STOP SOLITARY – REFORM PAROLE –
RELEASE ELDERS – CREATE TRUTH &
JUSTICE COMMISSION



Worship and Picnic in the Park Sunday, June 1 10:30 a.m.

Colonie Town Park (Colonie Mohawk River Park)

Please bring a dish to share. Meat for the grill and beverages will be provided. Be sure to sign up and indicate if you will bring salad, dessert, a snack item, or vegetable.

Cost before the picnic is \$5/person; \$12/family. If not paid in advance, cost the day of the picnic will be \$6/person; \$15/family.

Transportation will include a lot of carpooling (Colonie residents with their town card can pay \$2/car) so, on the sign up sheet, please fill in phone number and whether you are a Colonie resident and have your town card or not. (Full arrangements will be made closer to the time of the picnic.)

**Church Office Closed
May 26**
*Deadline for the June issue of
the MOSAIC is May 18.*

Men's Gathering Scheduled

Emmanuel men are invited to meet for lunch at the 76 Diner at 11:45 on Wednesday, May 7. If you plan to attend, please contact Bob Hunziker or Roy Mallory so adequate seating can be arranged. **Note to Veterans:** With valid ID, you will receive 10% discount. Hope to see you there!

Remember the Food Pantry



toothpaste

Congratulations to *Geoff Bray* and *Stephanie Wilkey* who were married on February 14th.

Mattie Blassengale

The Eddy Memorial Geriatric Ctr.
2256 Burdett Ave. Courtyard 4B
Troy, NY 12180



Ken Graham

Our Lady of Mercy Life Center Room 325
2 Mercycare Lane
Guilderland, NY 12084

Happy Birthday...

Beth Malone
Aaron Neer
Lauren Neer
Ericka Silverman
David Malone



11th
12th
17th
21st
23rd



“Take me out to the Ballgame”

Join Emmanuel friends as we enjoy a baseball game together on Sunday, July 20 at 5:00.

Cost: If you purchase 4 tickets for \$25, a hotdog and beverage are included. Payment deadline is June 1 (the church picnic) If you have any questions, you may contact Andrea Carver or Frank Scheu.

Emmanuel Baptist Church
275 State St.
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