

THE MOSAIC

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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

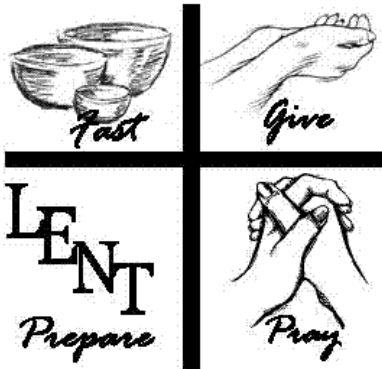
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Pastoral Ponderings

I recently had two occasions to be the receiver of sermons, instead of the deliverer. One was at the CREO service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, where our own Edith Leet was the preacher. The other was at Trinity Church Wall Street in New York City with preaching by the Right Rev. Michael Curry, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. On both occasions, the sermons contained important content and moving delivery. Being on the other side of the pulpit, I was reminded again of how hard the task of listening is. It is a discipline in which many of you engage faithfully. I know that you do so, because

you offer my own words back to me at times and because you ask follow-up questions at others. I want you to know that I appreciate your discipline in doing so.

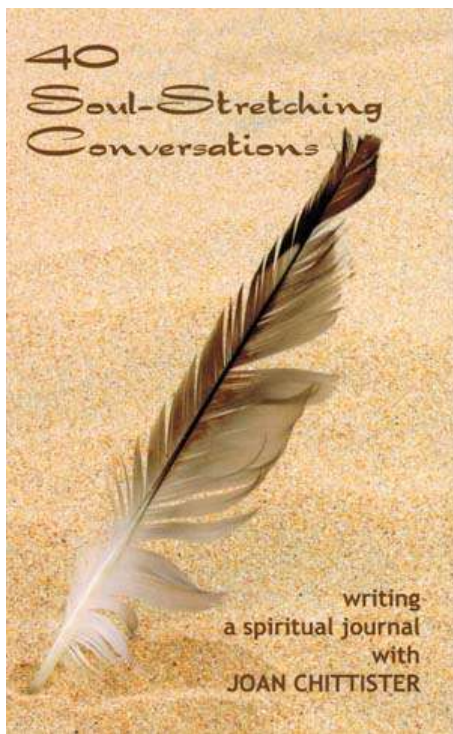
The early Christians were known as “followers of the Way.” Their way of life was the way of Jesus. They believed significant things about the person of Jesus and the nature of God, but they were known for how they acted, for the ways they practiced their faith. Regular engagement in worship, gathering with our faith community, allowing ourselves to be shaped by Scripture and prayer and proclamation – these are weekly faith practices at Emmanuel, along with many others.

During the season of Lent, we will explore the theme *A Way of Life for a Searching People*. Christian Educator Dorothy Bass defines Christian practices as “things Christian people do together over time in response to and in light of God’s active presence for the life of the world in Jesus Christ.” Lent was often used as a time of orientation to Christian faith. We will use this season to think more deeply about how to express our faith more consistently in every day life. Together we will examine activities like hospitality, honoring the body, forgiveness, and saying yes and saying no.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10. Join us for a pancake supper at 6:00 followed by worship. Our worship will include the option of receiving ashes, an ancient practice, which serves as a reminder of our mortality and an expression of sorrow for sin. Additional special worship services will occur on February 23 and March 15 and on Maundy Thursday, March 24. Watch for more information on those events coming soon.

Jesus offers a way of life that has integrity and leads to wholeness. This way is not easy, but it offers hope to us and to others. It is *A Way of Life for a Searching People*.

*Blessings,
Kathy*



Our Lenten emphasis will be on faith practices which are things we do on a regular basis to nurture our spirituality and discipleship. Journaling is a faith practice.

For the 40 days of Lent, you are invited to engage in this practice. No previous journaling experience required. We will be using the resource *40 Soul-Stretching Conversations: Writing a Spiritual Journal* by Joan Chittister. Sister Joan began to keep a spiritual journal to chart her way into a deeper relationship with God. For 40 days you can write your own spiritual broodings alongside Sister Joan's and other seekers who have dealt with the same kinds of soul-stretching questions, doubts and hopes that you have. It's an opportunity to participate in a rare conversation built on the belief that you are—each of you and all of you—the real subject matter of the spiritual life. You may choose to engage this resource as a personal practice. You might also choose to engage in a small group that shares insights and conversations about the practice. The small group

will meet at 6:00 p.m. on 3 Tuesday evenings, February 16, March 1 and March 8. If there is interest, we will create an on-line option for sharing as well.

The books will cost \$7 plus shipping. To order a book or indicate your interest in a small group, please sign up on the clipboard in fellowship hall or call the church office no later than January 31.

Pancake Supper Scheduled

Many churches have a simple worship service on Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. Other churches have a traditional pancake supper on Mardi Gras, the last day before Lent begins. Here at Emmanuel, we believe in making the most of every opportunity and mixing and matching elements from many traditions. Back by popular demand, the Lent Committee presents Pancakes on Ash Wednesday. Join us at 6:00 on February 10 for a pancake supper followed by a time of worship with the imposition of ashes. Receiving ashes is always optional. Look for a sign-up sheet in fellowship hall to reserve your place at the pancake feast.



Your Opinion Matters!

Worship Commission wants to know how you experience some aspects of our Sunday worship routine. This month we are asking:

- Do you enjoy standing in a circle at the end of communion services and singing together?
- Do you enjoy holding hands at the end of communion service as we sing?
- Do you like the signing (ASL) of the doxology that happens after the offertory (collection)?
- Do you find the activities above important? Symbolic? Significant?



Please take a moment to let us know. You can tell Pastor Kathy or any member of Worship Commission (Barb Lahut, Judy Henningson, Liselle LaFrance, Maria Townes, Tony Malone) Thank you!

From Christian Growth & Development...



Save these Dates:
February 20, March 15, March 26, June 12...



Winter Fun Day **Saturday, February 20, 10:30-Noon**

All kinds of fun on the snowy hills at Frear Park in Troy
Featuring sleds, toboggans, snow shoes, tubes, cross country skis, or whatever you want to bring! (If the weather is not cooperative, we'll move to the church gym for adaptive volleyball. Check on Facebook or call Ericka, 331-0535)

Attention: Sunday School Teachers and Helpers in the children and youth classes

Our **Annual Early Spring Teachers' Meeting** will be on **Tuesday, March 15**, at 112 Greenleaf Drive, Latham (Beth's house), beginning with supper at 5:30. There will be time to talk about highlights of your class as well as any needs or concerns. We will also gather ideas for Children's Day (June 12). Please RSVP to bethamalone@gmail.com or call Marilyn, 785-0022.

Easter Party **Saturday, March 26 from 10 a.m. to noon**

There will be games, craft activities, candy making, Easter egg hunts and more!
Lunch is included. Watch for a sign up sheet.



Children's Day **June 12**

Parents, please put this date on your children's calendars.
Young musicians who would like to participate, should begin to plan now!

Two opportunities for your creative ideas:

- **Easter party planning:**

Do you have creative ideas regarding crafts, egg decorating, games?
Would you like to help organize the lunch?
Get in on the ground floor!

- **New this year: Children's Day Party!!**

Ideas floating around – ice cream or pizza party for EBC & GKBC children between our services. CGD members and Sunday School teachers will be working on the worship time; perhaps YOU can help plan the party!

For either of these events, contact any member of CGD with your ideas (Marilyn, Beth, Ericka, Jim, Audrey, or Gretchen).

From Service to Others...



As the Service to Others Commission seeks to develop ways and means for the congregation to respond to the greater community's needs, we support many partners through donations, time, and talents. Do you know about all of these local partners?

Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless (IPH) empowers individuals and families who are homeless or facing homelessness, giving them the tools to be self-sufficient. This includes shelters with meals, showers, and case management support, daytime safe havens, health outreach programs, and youth programs. To learn more, visit <http://www.interfaithpartnership.com>

Capital Area Council of Churches (CACC) sponsors the Emergency Overflow Homeless Shelter in Albany and, in collaboration with member congregations and social service organizations, raises and provides funds for food pantries and soup kitchens. They also organize the CROP Walk, which will be May 1, 2016.

FOCUS Churches of Albany provides an Interfaith Food Pantry, Breakfast programs, School Supplies, Gardening in a Bucket, and more through their local programs. Also, FOCUS recognizes that mercy and justice go hand in hand, and seeks to move the struggle to end hunger from *charity-only* responses to an embrace of *justice*. To achieve that, FOCUS provides tools and inspiration that educate and empower grassroots religious advocates to find their voices and speak out to their political leaders. In the past few months, this has included the "Beyond15 - Toolkit for Ordinary Organizers" workshops about poverty and economic justice issues facing the state. This workshop provides tools and strategies to take the next steps in building an economic justice movement for the long-haul, and visited Emmanuel in the fall of 2015. To learn more, visit: focuschurches.net

FOCUS has also developed an Advocates program, where members of FOCUS congregations join together to mobilize our congregations and communities to address and change the public policy decisions that result in ongoing poverty and hunger. In the past few months, this has included the Economic Justice workshops about poverty and economic inequality. The workshops provide an overview of FOCUS programs along with information about the economic justice movement in NY state. Participants learn about the issues, train in advocacy skills, and participate in organizing for change in ways that are rooted in their faith callings.

At the state level, the NYS Council of Churches worked in 2015 with secular and religious partners to encourage the Governor and legislature to enact a living wage of \$15 and help lift millions of working New Yorkers out of poverty. Peter Cook took the helm as Executive Director after Paula Gravelle's retirement in 2015, and Peter has quickly jumped in to the fray, participating in demonstrations at the Capital and continuing the Council's participation in the Faith for a Fair New York effort. Visit to learn more: <https://sites.google.com/site/nyscouncilofchurches>

All of these groups receive money through Emmanuel's benevolence budget. Each provides us opportunities to love and serve our neighbors through direct service and by changing the systems and structures that oppress them. Thanks for your continued support!!



Love Kits

Service to Others will be collecting *Love Kits* throughout February. Pick up a brown paper bag and fill it with travel-size toiletries for guests at the Interfaith Shelter for the Homeless. *Love Kits* are easy to make and really appreciated by the people who receive them. A special treat such as a candy bar or granola bar is always welcome too! If you have any questions about this project, you may speak to Becca Leet or Mark Chaffin.

Winning \$15 - Why and how YOU can be part of raising NY wages in 2016

Presented by The Capital District Raise the Wage Coalition

Thursday, Feb. 11, 6 to 8 pm

SEIU Local 1199 Office Building
(155 Washington Ave, Albany, NY)

Attendees will hear from economic policy expert Ron Deutsch, minimum wage workers, faith leaders, and organizers on the current campaign to raise the wage in New York State. Get the info and tools needed to take action and build a movement for justice in our communities. To RSVP or for more info, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1669404460013768/> Or contact Joanna (email: jb.nadeau@yahoo.com)



FOCUS Worship

at

Westminster Presbyterian Church

February 7 at 10 a.m.

Installation of The Rev. Jim Ketcham as FOCUS Community Minister

Rev. Ketcham, preaching

Joint Choir

Fellowship Time following service

Join us for this special worship experience!

"Empty Bowls"

February 14, 1 - 3 pm

Albany Elks Club (25 So. Allen St.)

Empty Bowls is a joint fundraiser for FOCUS and Hunger Action Network of NYS. Here's how it works: Select a hand-crafted bowl; fill it with gourmet soups prepared by the Chef's Consortium and other local restaurants and enjoy freshly baked breads by Rockhill Bakehouse. Then, take the bowl home. More information at: focuschurches.net and HungerAc-tionNYS.org





Emmanuel Ladies are invited to meet for lunch at Normanside restaurant on Thursday, February 4, at 11:45 a.m. If you plan to attend, please contact Pat Hunziker so that adequate seating can be arranged. We hope to see you there!

Remember the Food Pantry...

February:
feminine hygiene products



Please Note...

Church Office Closed:

February 15

Coordinating Council:

February 15, 5:30 at church

Diaconate:

February 21 after worship

Copies the new Church Directory as well as the Book of Reports are available. Look for them on the table in Fellowship Hall.

Happy Birthday...

February

Betty Mallory
Aaron Johnson
Wesley Kendall
Becca Leet
David Green
Tim Bray
Cassandra Paul
Gail Hill



1st
9th
5th
15th
16th
18th
18th
28th

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

Work Day Scheduled
Saturday, February 20
9 a.m. to Noon



Come and lend a hand as we tackle some housekeeping and light maintenance projects. Lunch will be provided. If you have questions, you may contact Tom Lahut.

Deadline for the March issue of the MOSAIC is February 18



Concert Scheduled
February 20, 5 p.m.

"From Shepherd's Heights to Neon Nights"

Music for voice, clarinet, and piano presented by *Trio Nota*:
Amanda Boyd-Grout, soprano,
Joseph Rutkowski, clarinet
Michael Clement, piano



February 15

Emmanuel Baptist Church
275 State St.
Albany, NY 12210

