

THE MOSAIC

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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
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Pastoral Ponderings



In my Easter sermon, I referred to the poem *Threatened With Resurrection* by Julia Esquivel. In it, she suggested that those who were massacred or disappeared in her homeland of Guatemala were threatening the living with resurrection. I am reading her poem in an English translation and like most poetry, it is densely written, so I am still working to understand it. But my best sense is that she might mean this threat in two ways. First, it is a threat that the dead might themselves come back to life, if the living don't take their own lives seriously enough. And second, the threat is that belief in the resurrection of Jesus compels us to affirm life, and to affirm that life by steadfastly and continually opposing the death-dealing of injustice, oppression and all forms of sin and evil.

Sometimes, we are threatened by Resurrection. We want to wallow in our bad habits. We want to take the easier route of simply coexisting with social structures and systems, rather than having to question or challenge the ways that bad systems create social inequities and injustice.

But sometimes, we can be the force that wields the Power of Resurrection. In Esquivel's words, we are part of the "marathon of Hope". Instead of being the despairing, we are the hopeful and we bring the hope of Christ to others. I have this image of the people of Emmanuel as a force to be reckoned with -- each of us in our ways threatening sin or evil with Life.

Howard Thurman, that great African-American theologian from the last century said, "Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive." People who have come fully alive -- that's the threat of Resurrection. As we watch the natural world come fully alive this season, may we also be enlivened with the abundant love and life offered in Jesus the Christ.

*Blessings,
Kathy*

From Service to Others...



The Service to Others Commission wishes to thank the following people who have supported the shelter meals this past year: Bien Baez, Andrea Carver, Karen Green, Pat Hunziker, Barbara Lahut, Edie Simpson and Elaine Spoor. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

We also extend our thanks to all who generously donated to the America for Christ Offering. Did you know that your gifts:

- Facilitated the placement of more than 750 volunteers who served nearly 3500 days across the United States;
- Supported Prisoner Re-entry and Aftercare Ministry;
- Provided resources and materials such as Bibles when requested and the annual Discipleship & Christian Education Guide which was distributed via regional and national events.



Excerpt from a note of thanks:

Dear Emmanuel Baptist Church:

Thank you on behalf of Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless for contributing to our Meal Donation Program. With your support, we were able to provide 315 meal donations that covered 9,450 meals for our 30 guests ataying at the Shelter each day.

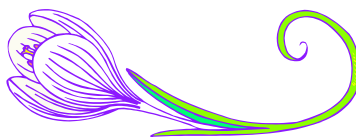
Throughout the year we provide approximately 60,000 meals to guests within our Emergency Shelters in Albany and Amsterdam, Sheridan Hollow Drop in Center, Safe Haven and Summer Youth Program...we can't say thank you enough for being part of our lifeline and having a positive impact on our guest's lives...

Clarice Nichols, Outreach & Volunteer Coordinator



Regional Food Bank
of Northeastern New York

Have you wondered where the Capital District Food Pantries get the food they provide to their guests? Service to Others is coordinating a trip to the Northeast Regional Food Bank in Latham on April 30, from 9 am to 11am. Come and learn how much the Food Bank helps our community and lend a hand sorting food for distribution. If you have questions, you may speak with Karen Kendall.





This year Bread for the World is organizing letter-writing to support funding for nutrition and health for mothers, newborns, and young children. Congress plays a critical role in setting the policies and funding levels that enable our government to do its part to improve nutrition and health. Bread for the World's *Offering of Letters* provides an opportunity to contact members of Congress, asking them to increase funding for nutrition programs. In addition, Congress can pass the Global Food Security Act and reform the ways it provides food aid. The Global Food Security Act will ensure continued US investments in agriculture, thus improving nutrition and increasing the productivity of small holder farmers. During worship on Sunday, April 24 we will join in this letter-writing effort. If you have questions, you may contact any member of Service to Others Commission.

CROP Walk: May 3

12:30 registration; 1:00 kick-off



What are CROP Hunger Walks?

Neighbors walking together to raise funds to end hunger in their community and around the world. Together – with different ages, faiths and backgrounds – we raise money and awareness to end hunger, one step at a time.

What makes the Walks unique?

CROP Hunger Walks are interfaith events that build community while also making a difference locally and globally. Anyone is able to join. Your participation impacts individuals and families in more than 30 countries.

How can I support CROP Walk?

- Recruit sponsors and walk the 3 ½ mile route
- Walk the “Golden Mile”
- Hold participants in your prayers
- Sponsor a member of Emmanuel’s team

If you have questions, speak with Karen Green.



Special events this spring - Save the Dates!

*** Pathfinder Open House - Saturday, June 4**

*** Children's Day - Sunday, June 12**

Celebrate the wonderful gifts of our children! If you have questions, speak with Marilyn or another member of CGD.



Elsewhere in this newsletter, the Service to Others Commission recognizes those dedicated EBC members who help to make the FOCUS food & outreach services available to our neighbors who cannot afford the basics. This is an important step towards addressing the separation that the current system of economic inequality creates among us, and helping us to better understand what it is actually like to live in poverty. But I worry that when we are serving people who are in poverty a divide emerges, while unintentional, between Us vs. Them.

One way to bridge this divide is to move more deeply into community with one another, such as to have social gatherings where we can experience our solidarity and interconnectedness. Getting to know each other and enjoy each other helps build a stronger and richer community, and helps us all work more

effectively for social and economic justice. I believe this is a calling for the church. At the most basic level, fighting together for an economic system that works for everyone is about fostering God's Kingdom here on earth.

FOCUS and the Capital District Raise the Wage Coalition hold events – Easter breakfast, the Holiday Party and the March Potluck – to encourage this fellowship. We hope to hold more of these. I hope you all will join us. As we gather, I hope to hear your ideas and suggestions for how we can better build community with one another. I know I am not the only one who is thinking about this question! ~ Joanna Nadeau



The Rev. Stephen Parelli is the director of Other Sheep. A multicultural, ecumenical, Christian ministry founded in 1992 in Latin America, Other Sheep, works worldwide for the full inclusion of LGBT people of faith within their respective faith-traditions.

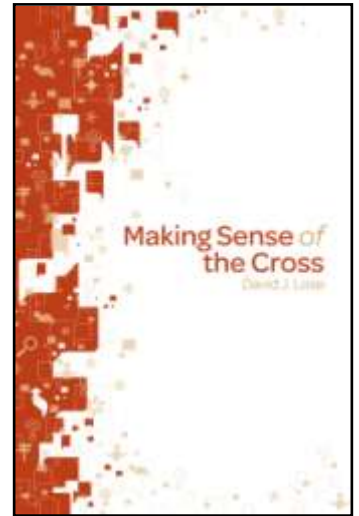
Stephen and his husband, Jose Ortiz, will be at Emmanuel on April 24. During the adult education hour, they will share information about their ministry, particularly in Uganda, where they worked with three NGO's, to translate, print and distribute 4000 copies of a book on what the Bible does and does not say about homosexuality.

Adult Education Schedule for Eastertide

April 3	Emmanuel as a weapon-free zone
April 10	Congregational meeting and diaconate, no Sunday School
April 17	<i>Making Sense of the Cross: Portraits and Perspectives</i>
April 24	Guest speaker: Rev. Stephen Parelli of Other Sheep
May 1	Family Matters class or <i>Making Sense of the Cross: Ransom and Victory</i>
May 8	<i>Making Sense of the Cross: Substitution, Satisfaction and Sacrifice</i>
May 15	Diaconate, no Sunday School
May 22	<i>Making Sense of the Cross: Example and Encouragement</i>
May 29	<i>Making Sense of the Cross: Event and Experience</i>

Making Sense of the Cross

For most of Eastertide (the months of April and May), our adult educational focus will be on Making Sense of the Cross. Written by Dr. David Lose, President of Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, this resource explores many pressing questions about the cross, such as "Did Jesus have to die?" and "What does the cross reveal about God?" Each session will include a video presentation summarizing one chapter of the book as well as time for group conversation and response.



Over the six weeks, we will examine the four gospel accounts of the crucifixion and recall three major streams of theology about the cross, also called atonement theories. By the final session, we will seek to integrate all of that into real-life application. Participants may choose to read the book, but can also participate fully without reading. Pastor Kathy will be ordering books soon. If you would like to purchase a copy for \$15, please tell her or call the church office no later than April 3.

Can You Serve in this Way?

From time to time, there is specific work to be done that is not covered by our existing commissions. We are looking for volunteers to help accomplish three tasks in 2016/2017. Each committee will function for a short time, do its work and then disband. A person does not need to be a member of Emmanuel to serve on these committees -- a genuine interest in the task and a willingness to put some time and energy into it are all that is required.

The Stewardship Committee requires 7 people. We will be using the focused materials we used last year, called New Consecration Sunday. The first meeting will be in September and the committee will disband in mid-November.

The Retreat Committee is charged with planning an intergenerational event focused on having fun and building relationships. The first meeting will be no later than June for an event in late summer/early fall. Emmanuel Friedens Church will also have representatives on this committee as we are planning on a combined retreat again.

The Annual Meeting Committee needs people willing to help organize an event that celebrates our mission and ministry as well as organizing the necessary business at the end of the calendar year. We anticipate having a catered church dinner as part of the annual meeting in January 2017. This committee will meet for the first time in October or November and the bulk of the work will likely happen in January.

If you are interested in serving on one of these committees, or if you want to ask questions and simply explore that possibility, please speak with Moderator Liselle LaFrance or Pastor Kathy as soon as possible.



A Prayer-Psalm inspired by Psalm 65
Composed by the Wednesday Bible Study Group

I long for God in this time of political mistrust and meanness.
I long for God like a hungry man who seeks for bread...
 A child who seeks patience from the adults around her...
 An animal who seeks shelter from lightning
 A refugee who seeks a kindly face.
I long for God like a child longs for Christmas
 Like the Narnians felt when it was always winter and never Christmas.
I long for God like the desert thirsts for rain,
 The flowering plants long for sunshine
 The birds of the air for shelter

I see God's power and glory in the ocean waves crashing on the shore
 In the sheen of a butterfly's wing,
 In wind and thunder.
I see God's power and glory in the beginning of a family when a child is born.
I see God's glory in a sunrise or sunset,
 God's power in a storm, in the rising and falling of the tide.
I feel God's presence in the heavens and on the earth
 In the swamps and moors
 In the deserts and the meadows
 In the forests and the seas
It makes me joyfully laugh in the glory of creation.

I trust God because God has brought me through the hard times
 God has given me the strength to meet challenges
 And has been with me in both the good and bad times.
I trust God because he holds me in his hands.
 God knows my name and my future.
God is Love, Peace, and Understanding.

So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my
 hands and call on your name.



Faith Formation and Spiritual Growth Opportunities



April 15-18: Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington DC.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice (EAD) is pleased to announce that “Moral Monday” founder, The Rev. Dr. William Barber, will join The Children’s Defense Fund founder, Marian Wright

Edelman, and IMA Word Health executive, The Rev. Amy Gopp, as keynote speakers for EAD’s national gathering, April 15-18, 2016.

The title of the gathering is “Lift Every Voice: Racism, Class and Power.” Dr. Barber will serve as the Friday Opening Celebration keynote preacher, Wright Edelman will make a luncheon presentation on Saturday titled “The Cradle to Prison Pipeline,” and Rev. Gopp will serve as the Sunday Interdenominational Worship preacher. FOCUS Churches has scholarships available and would like to have representatives from each congregation in attendance. If you might be interested, you could speak with, Becca Leet, Edith Leet, or Joanna Nadeau about their previous trips to this event. Contact the FOCUS Office 443-0460 for more information.

April 19, 7-8:30: Online discussion of Michelle Alexander’s “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness” using Daniel Hunter’s “Building a Movement to End the New Jim Crow”. Presented by Baptist Peace Fellowship. FREE

April 22-24: American Baptist Women of NYS Convention in Owego. Spiritual Leader is Rev. Dr. Christine Roush. This convention is also for girls ages 8 & up.

Reservations and Registrations DUE BY April 3

Come and



May 7, 8:30-noon: CABA women’s meeting at Latham Community Baptist Church; Keynote Speaker, Trudy Pettibone Registration will begin at 8:30 with coffee and refreshments. The program will conclude at 11:30 followed by a covered dish luncheon.



CABA Meeting Scheduled

The CABA Advisory Board and Board of Trustees are calling a special meeting of all CABA church delegates to consider and vote on a request from the Gethsemane Karen Baptist Church of Albany to join CABA. Two of Emmanuel's three representatives to the CABA Advisory Board will serve as our voting delegates, however, anyone who wishes to attend the meeting is welcome to do so. If you plan to attend, please tell Pastor Kathy no later than Sunday, April 10, so she can give our total number to the CABA moderator.

Date: Saturday, April 16, 2016

Time: 10:00 am

Place: Latham Community Baptist Church
109 Forts Ferry Road
Latham, NY 12110



Ladies Lunch Scheduled

Emmanuel ladies will gather at Normanside Country Club on **Thursday, April 7** (11:30 a.m.) to enjoy lunch together. If you plan to attend, please contact Betty Mallory so adequate seating can be arranged. We hope to see you there!

Songs of Children and the Heavens

Elizabeth Lehman, mezzo-soprano

Michael Clement, pianist

presenting

Jack Heggie's "Songs to the Moon"

Gustav Moeller's "Kindertotenlieder"

April 17, 4 pm

Admission Free; donations appreciated



Happy Birthday...

Anthony Malone
Geoffrey Bray
Andrew Malone
Matthew Normile
Chris LaBarge
Ian Leet
Tenosha Ford
Hannah Scheu
Lillian Matejcak
Alyce Malone
Jonathan Bray
Kristen Stroebel
Karen Green



5th
6th
6th
8th
11th
13th
16th
18th
20th
21st
23rd
23rd
27th

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

Coordinating Council:

April 5, 5:30 at Lahut's

Pastoral Relations Committee:

April 6 at 4:00

Congregational Meeting & Diaconate

April 10, after worship

Remember the
Food Pantry...



April:
deodorant



Deadline for the May
MOSAIC is April 18.

Emmanuel Baptist Church
275 State St.
Albany, NY 12210

