

THE MOSAIC

Published monthly by

EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

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Pastoral Ponderings



In the last six years, people from a variety of countries have passed through our doors for worship. The countries I'm aware of include: Myanmar/Thailand, China, Nigeria, the Republic of Congo, Nicaragua, Azerbaijan, Canada and the USA. Some of these worshippers were invited guests. Others sojourned with us for a while and moved on. Many are still among the faithful who participate in our communal life on a regular basis.

The Biblical image of God's kingdom is multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual. In Revelation 7, John of Patmos describes a great multitude in heaven "from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne".

Emmanuel is privileged to be able to embody that image. Looking around our sanctuary on a Sunday morning, one can imagine being part of the heavenly multitude that John envisioned. Not every church is so blessed. However, like many other aspects of the kingdom of God, this one is only partially realized. We try, but we don't do it perfectly. We come with different expectations of worship (some like it loud and rhythmic, some like it prayerful and contemplative), with different expectations of relationship (some want to be anonymous, others seem to need everyone to know their business), with a range of theological and ecclesiastical backgrounds (too many to list here). Consciously or unconsciously, we bring ethnic and cultural identities which may include ideas about appropriate clothing, topics for small talk, personal space and emotional space boundaries, child-rearing, how to express anger or love or joy.

The more we see a faith community as a place where we belong, the more we will seek to be our most authentic selves in that space. That is a wonderful thing. As Emmanuel provides that for many different people, we live into that Biblical vision ever more fully. However, if a lot of people with the potential for a lot of differences each start expressing our most authentic selves, it is likely that we will find ourselves in conflict. Sustaining our multi-hued, multi-cultural faith community means learning to lean into the love and grace of the gospel.

As your pastor, I am trying to pay better attention to how we are doing with this. I welcome your thoughts, questions and concerns. Please look in this newsletter for opportunities for Sunday School classes, book studies and small group conversations which will also help us improve our awareness, and therefore, our engagement with multi-cultural issues. You serve and lead the church in many capacities. As you exercise your gifts, I encourage you to be mindful of the wonderful tapestry of faith we are weaving, seeking to make this truly a house of prayer for all peoples.

*Blessings,
Kathy*

God Beyond Borders

God beyond borders
we bless you for strange places
and different dreams

for the demands and diversity
of a wider world

for the distance
that lets us look back and re-evaluate

for new ground
where the broken stems can take root,
grow and blossom.

We bless you
for the friendship of strangers
the richness of other cultures
and the painful gift of freedom

Blessed are you,
God beyond borders.

But if we have overlooked
the exiles in our midst
heightened their exclusion
by our indifference
given our permission
for a climate of fear
and tolerated a culture of violence

Have mercy on us,
God who takes side with justice,
confront our prejudice
stretch our narrowness
sift out our laws and our lives
with the penetrating insight
of your spirit
until generosity is our only measure.
Amen.



--- Kathy Galloway, *Maker's Blessing*
(Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2000)

Final Focus Summer Worship Service:

Sept. 4 - at Westminster Presbyterian at 10:00 a.m.

Choir rehearsal at 9:00 a.m. No robes

Workshop on immigration issues

led by Joe Paparone in the Wells Room after refreshments

Please note that there will not be worship at Emmanuel that morning

PEACE SUNDAY

YOU WANT TO BE AT EMMANUEL ON SEPTEMBER 11. It's the Sunday when we gather after a summer of scattering to family reunions and vacations and weekend camping trips. Some of us haven't seen each other for a while. It also happens to be the fifteenth anniversary of the events of September 11, 2001. As we worship together, we will reflect on how to find peace within our own hearts, how to pursue peace in a culture of violence, how to offer hope to a world in despair, and we will celebrate our students with a Blessing of the Backpacks.

Plans are also coming together for an indoor picnic after worship that day.

Beverages and freshly grilled hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share and also your checkbooks, as this will be a fundraiser for the Nicaragua Mission Trip (see article on next page). In addition to a great EBC meal, you will have opportunities to learn about spiritual formation events for all ages this fall, to offer input into our ongoing conversation about church governance, and to register children for Sunday School. Don't miss it!



Peace is possible.



FOR STUDENTS OF ALL AGES

PLEASE BRING A BACKPACK OR LUNCH BOX
OR SOMETHING ELSE YOU USE AS
PART OF LEARNING

WE WILL CELEBRATE ANOTHER YEAR OF
LEARNING AND GROWTH

Nicaragua Mission Trip

October 7-15



“During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the good news to them.” Acts 16:9-10

Who is calling

Pastor Escarlet Yaravit Fletes Quiroz and the people of Bethel Church in Rama have recognized that the social and spiritual wellbeing of the Rama community is closely related to better health. Rama is a city of about 63,000 that has no local hospital or pediatrician. The people of Bethel Church (one of the mission churches established by American Baptist missionaries, Vital and Ketly Pierre)

have asked our medical group to help them identify the most pressing needs of the community and to begin to build some ongoing solutions that they themselves can continue to support and grow. For example, dental health can be significantly improved in children by simple application of fluoride varnish which their community could support long term. Our team plans to train individuals in screening and treatment of anemia in children and will leave the equipment for this effort. We will work with a team from the community to develop an educational program for individuals with high blood pressure and/or diabetes in life style changes in activity, nutrition and habits that can improve health long term.

Who we are

Anthony Malone, MD, Thomas Lahut, PA, Nancy Spencer, NP, Marilyn Malone, Jean Burton, September Amspacher, Andrew Karn

Our team has strong connections to Bethel's sister churches in Bluefields and Kukra Hill, Nicaragua where we have visited and worked with them in medical care. Our invitation back to the region tells us that our resources are still needed and that we have been able to forge collaborative relationships with the community. Each team member is paying for their own transportation, room and board. We ask you to support our efforts with monetary donations for medications and other supplies.

Background information about Nicaragua

With over three-fourths of its population living on \$2 or less per day, Nicaragua is one of the poorest countries in Latin America. Astoundingly high percentages of adults have hypertension and the resultant heart disease and stroke associated with it. Childhood anemia and chronic malnutrition is rampant and dental care is almost nonexistent. The health care system has little resources.

How you can help

We need your prayer support, as we prepare for this trip and while we are in Nicaragua. And we need your gifts, in any amount to help reach our goal of \$6500. This amount will provide enough medications and supplies to sustain a medical clinic for a full year!



All donations are tax deductible. Checks can be made out to “Emmanuel Baptist Church” with a note in the memo line: For Nicaragua Mission, and sent to Emmanuel Baptist Church, 275 State St. Albany NY 12210.

Other Donations

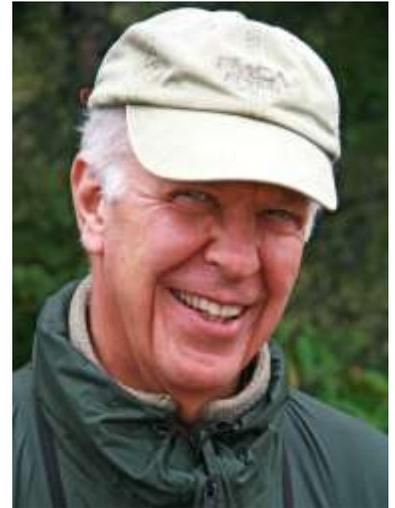
Items are listed in order of preference.

Please bring donations to Emmanuel by Sunday, Oct. 2 or to the Malone's house by Wednesday, Oct. 5.

1. Toothbrushes for adults & children – total needed, about 700, so inexpensive ones are best.
2. Ziploc plastic bags (approximate amounts, whatever brand is cheapest) – 700 snack, 700 sandwich, 500 quart, & 200 gallon size
3. Toothpaste
4. Pens and pencils, school supplies Remember that their language is Spanish
5. Balls and equipment for the after school program are appreciated, but remember that we are limited in size and weight.
6. Flip flops and shoes of all kinds

Bridging the Political Divide Free Online Course with Parker Palmer

We are in the midst of what may be the most polarizing and contentious election cycle in recent U.S. history. Many observers note that the political rancor and rhetoric has reached all-time highs, injecting unprecedented fear, division, and unease into our culture. Renowned writer and theologian Parker Palmer believes our current political climate provides a rare opportunity to think more deeply about who we are as people and a nation. This course is intended to spur thought, conversation, and action around current political tensions. The class, a series of video lectures and discussions, can be taken anytime between September 5 – 19. To take the class as an individual, simply register at churchnext.tv. Click on The Big Class. **Or take it as a part of a group with other Emmanuelites on September 14 at the home of Tony and Marilyn Malone at 7:00 p.m. Please sign up in fellowship hall to let them know to expect you.**



***#Occupy the Bible: What Jesus Really Said (and Did) About Money and Power* By Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite**

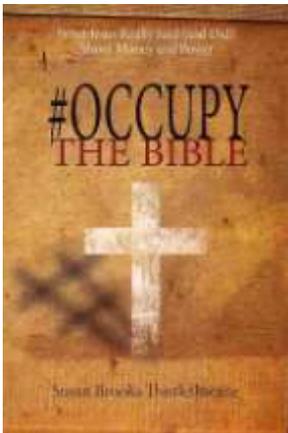
When: Five Tuesdays: Sept 20, Oct 4, Oct 18, Nov 1 and Nov 15
6:55 p.m. -8:55 p.m.

Where: Home of Pastor Kathy, 29 Joy Drive, Loudonville

Facilitator: Curtis Klope

How: Order your own book at wipfandstock.com or amazon.com
Please talk with Pastor Kathy if you cannot afford a book. We can help.
Read two chapters for each session.

What: Timely, informed, potentially transformative conversation as we respond to ideas found within the book and the Bible, like the following



- Jesus of Nazareth said and did a lot about money and power in his own time
- Jesus occupied the Temple in Jerusalem—effectively the national bank of his time—and threw out those who were exploiting the poor.
- His followers included powerful “women of means,” like Mary Magdalene, who was last at the cross, first at the tomb, and who went on to become a missionary.
- Jesus organized fishermen whose industry had been wrecked by the Roman Empire.
- Jesus taught in the streets, preaching that God’s “side” is not that of the wealthy and powerful; and that all believers need to confront inequality now.

Please call the church office or sign up on the clipboard in fellowship hall.

***After Labor Day
Office Hours ~ 8:30-3:30 Monday to Thursday
Office Closed ~ September 5***

Prayer in Your Life

Saturday, September 24, 9:30-3:30pm

Berne Game Farm Road Park (former Buddhist Center for Compassion), Berne, NY

Prayer is one of many methods for reaching into our lives and for connecting with the Divine. Prayer is a kind of signpost for a broader set of questions about listening and discernment. In our time in history, prayer connects us to our Christian past but also needs to speak to our immediate lives and what is unique to this time and place. Prayer, then, is a means for sorting through what we are holding on to and what we are letting go of. We will experience and practice prayer in this facilitated workshop.

Cost: \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door, scholarships available.

Light breakfast and simple lunch provided.

Sign up on the retreat clipboard in Fellowship Hall.

Carpooling will be arranged (leaving from Albany by 8:15).

Ask Judy Henningson or Joanna Nadeau for more information about this event.



Facilitator: Holly White, religion scholar, teacher, and Quaker.

"Prayer is a conversation with God and a way to seek and know ourselves in relationship with Christ. We see throughout the history of prayer--in the Bible, in our words in worship, and in our mystics-- examples of how human speech is one thing and God's "language" is something else. We pray to learn to listen with our whole selves. The more of our selves we bring into prayer, the greater the range of methods we give for God to communicate."-- Holly White

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson

Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinkmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever.

On Sunday, October 2, we will meet Bryan Stevenson via his inspiring TED talk in the Contemporary Christian Concerns Class. Join us in the parlor following worship. Jean Burton will facilitate our conversation that day. For those who want to go deeper on the issues of racial injustice and the death penalty, Jean will convene a discussion of those who have read the book at a later date in November. Date and time to be determined.



"Just Mercy will make you upset and it will make you hopeful. . . . Stevenson has been angry about [the criminal justice system] for years, and we are all the better for it."

—Ted Conover, *The New York Times Book Review*

FOCUS on Schools Supplies -- Thank You!

Many thanks to all who donated much needed school supplies! We served nearly 160 children in our area plus we were able to send 17 boxes of extra supplies to the Albany City School District for them to pass out to children in need. Thank you too for all the volunteers who helped with setting up, distributing and cleaning up the supplies.



FOCUS
CHURCHES OF ALBANY

Delmar Reformed Church
386 Delaware Ave. Delmar

Saturday, October 1, 2016

8 am to 11 am

Pancake Breakfast

**Silent Auction
50/50 Raffle**
Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Bacon,
Lots More!

**Benefit for :
FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry**
www.FOCUSChurches.net

**\$8.00 per Person
Children under 5- Free**

*Remember the
Food Pantry...*

September: deoderant



American Baptist Churches of New York State

August 4, 2016

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Region ministry in the first half of 2016 has been vigorous, and the months have flown by. Here a few of the highlights of the ministry so far this year:

- Worked with 36 congregations as they seek pastoral leadership
- Walked closely with about a half dozen congregations who have had conflicts they could not resolve on their own.
- Enhanced the Lay Study Program in ways that will make courses more accessible and train more leaders for our churches
- Organized two mission trips to Nicaragua to carry on *the Waters of Blessings* mission commitment
- Organized a weekend conference on Interim Ministry with 53 people attending
- Provided guidance to churches in the areas of finance, administration, and compliance with regulations
- Provided in-church seminars on a number of topics, including communication, one board governance, envisioning, and establishing a pastoral relations committee
- Guided churches and pastors through the ordination process
- Provided support and encouragement to pastors in crisis

We are doing this ministry so far this year with fewer financial resources than we had last year. Year to date, our support through United Mission is down, as is our America for Christ Offering. ABCNYS Region Offering is up a bit so far. Direct gifts to the Region by churches and individuals is a bit decreased this year. These are the four primary avenues of mission support for the Region.

What this means is that a \$5,718 surplus at the end of March has turned into an \$11,992 deficit at the end of June. We are going to continue to work to strengthen the ministries of our congregations relying in faith upon the generosity of our congregations and supporters. Please review your church's mission giving report in the latest "Paragraphs for Partners" and see how you are doing so far this year. You can also find the report at <http://www.abc-nys.org/resources/abms-summary>. (Direct gifts to the Region by churches and individuals are not reflected in this report.)

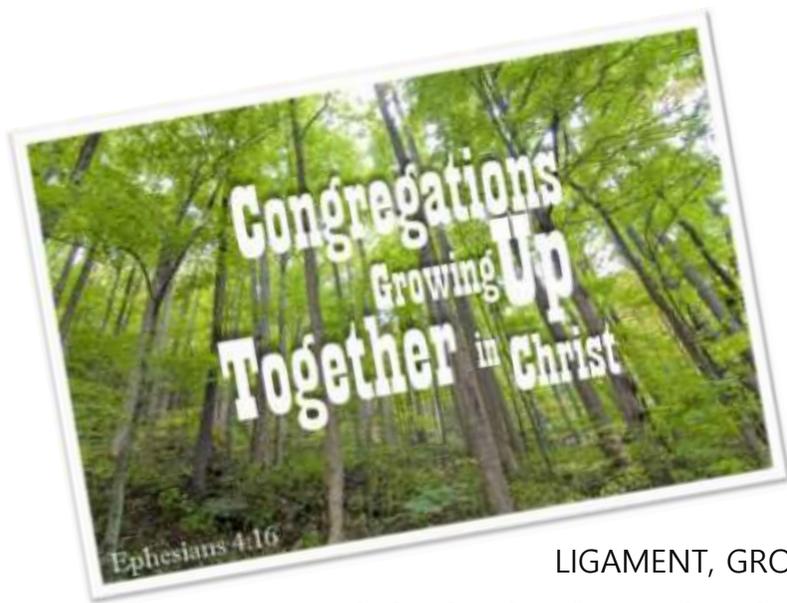
Your contributions to Regional Ministry strengthens our churches and enables them to do more ministry in more places.

Blessings,

James Harriff, Treasurer

Jim Kelsey, Executive Minister

NOTE: Emmanuel collected \$912 in gifts for the region in July as part of our annual receiving of the Regional Offering. Thank you for your generosity. Additional gifts to support regional ministry may be made at any time of the year, by designating ABC/NYS on the memo line of your check or envelope.



ABCNYS BIENNIAL
 NOVEMBER 4 – 6, 2016
 holiday inn Liverpool-syracuse
 441 Electronics Parkway, Liverpool
 NY
 (off exit 37 NYS Thruway)

"FROM HIM THE WHOLE BODY, JOINED AND HELD TOGETHER BY EVERY SUPPORTING

LIGAMENT, GROWS AND BUILDS ITSELF UP IN LOVE, AS EACH

PART DOES ITS WORK." EPHESIANS 4:16

SPECIAL GUESTS



REV ROBEN AWI
 SYRACUSE CHIN CHRISTIAN
 CHURCH



REV DR DEBORA JACKSON
 ABCUSA MINISTERS COUNCIL



DR GEORGE BULLARD
 THE COLUMBIA PARTNERSHIP

Saturday Workshops

Transforming You to Respond to Conflict:

Rev. Dr. Stephanie Sauve, Dean of Faculty,
 Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School
 -- Learn how to respond helpfully and productively to conflict
 in your church.

Spiritual Practices of Leaders:

Rev. D. Debora Jackson, ABCUSA Ministers Council
 -- Explore the spiritual practices that enable leaders to be
 more effective in ministry

Conversation on Race: Regional Leaders

-- Join a conversation about how our congregations can make
 a redemptive contribution to the ongoing discussion of race in
 our nation.

Biennial Registration Fee \$40.00/person*

Five or more from one church (sent in one
 envelope): \$35/person

** includes Saturday lunch, refreshments,
 ice cream social & program costs

Lodging @ Holiday Inn/Liverpool: \$110
 per room per night (up to 4 people)

Deadline: September 25

**See Liselle LaFrance for registration
 forms.**

*In November when we we gather, we look forward to experiencing the diversity Jesus has united. In our
 togetherness we find strength, in our togetherness we find encouragement, in our togetherness, we are able to
 see the fullness of Christ. Join us in November as we share an amazing time together with the Youth
 Convention. Join us in November and witness what God is truly doing among us.*

~ Rev. Dr. Greg Johnson, President



Men's Lunch

Emmanuel men will gather for lunch at *The 76 Diner* in Latham on Wednesday, September 7 at 11:45 a.m. If you plan to attend, please let Bob Hunziker know.

Happy Birthday...



Advent Committee

The Advent Committee develops a theme and plans events for Advent and Christmas. Participation is open to anyone who wants to make our season meaningful. Our first meeting will be on September 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the parlor. Please join us.

Coordinating Council
September 13
Malone Home



Diaconate will convene
September 18



Mosaic Deadline
September 18



Ruth Pushee	1 st
Judah Appe	4 th
Dorothy Wilburn	4 th
Ariana Paul	5 th
Veronica Smith	8 th
Gillian Horan	14 th
Pickett Tait Simpson	16 th
Madison Stroebel	17 th
Nathan LaBarge	17 th
Jan Curtis	21 st
Julianna Palm Smith	21 st
Pat Hunziker	26 th
Frank Scheu	27 th
Marion Dickinson	29 th
Mark Chaffin	29 th

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

Emmanuel Baptist Church

275 State St.

Albany, NY 12210