

THE MOSAIC

Published monthly by
EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

**275 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NY 12210**

Office: (518) 465-5161

emmanuelalbany@juno.com

April 2018

Volume XXXVI No. 4



Pastoral Ponderings

The best funerals are the ones with laughter, spontaneous, from-the-belly laughter. The best funerals are the ones where the deceased is remembered as a flesh-and-blood human being. Stories are shared that make us cry and laugh in turn, as we remember virtues and foibles, embarrassing moments, ridiculous occasions and hard-won achievements. I hope there is a lot of

laughter at my funeral.

Easter Sunday is not a funereal occasion. The closest thing we get to that in the church calendar is probably Good Friday. However, on the very first Easter Sunday, the women thought it was a funeral. Even though Jesus had already been buried, they intended to do all the tasks normally done immediately after a death. They thought they would tenderly wash his body and anoint it. They thought they would wrap it in clean linen and spices. Perhaps, they had already been sharing some favorite memories of Jesus with each other. Because Jesus' death had been so brutal, I suspect that they had not yet progressed to the point of being able to laugh over funny memories yet. If this had been a normal death and grief process, I am sure they would have reached that stage. Jesus had a way of making people laugh, with his verbal cartoons of camels going through needles and people walking around with boards sticking out from their eyes. Or they might have remembered embarrassing incidents. "Remember that time when Peter thought he could walk on the water?" "Remember when Zacchaeus climbed a tree because he was so short?"

For us, and for Christians through the ages, Easter is not a funeral, not even the best kind of funeral, but rather a day of great joy and profound hope. It is a celebration of the surprise of the empty tomb and resurrection. It coincides this year with April Fool's Day, a day to celebrate good surprises with abundant laughter. Early church theologians like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa and John Chrysostom thought that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. "Risus paschalis – the Easter laugh," they called it. We could call it the best April Fool ever.

continued...

For centuries in Eastern Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant countries, the week following Easter Sunday, including “Bright Sunday” (the Sunday after Easter), was observed by the faithful as “days of joy and laughter” with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection. Churchgoers and pastors played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, told jokes, sang, and danced. What a great affirmation of the Foolish Love we explored this Lent.

Easter won’t land on April 1 again until 2029, so take advantage of this opportunity. Join us for a glorious celebration of the resurrection, because on an April Fool’s Day Easter, God gets the first and last laugh. Suffering, pain, injustice, exploitation, greed, violence are made the fool as the reign of God breaks the power of death forever.

Blessings,

Pastor Kathy



Emmanuel Women are invited to

gather for lunch at the Point restaurant on April 5, 11:45 am. Please let Betty Mallory or Pat Hunziker know if you will be joining us. We hope to see you there!

Mark your Calendar...

Also on April 5... **Emmanuel men** will get together for food and fellowship at the Point. Please RSVP to Bob Green or Bob Hunziker so that adequate seating can be arranged.

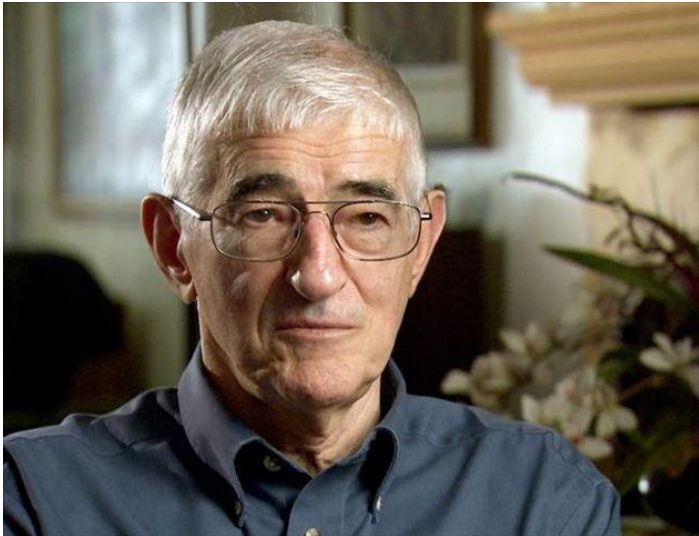
Spring’s Here!

Time to Plan for Camp!

It’s time to register for children’s summer camp at Pathfinder Lodge! Forms and information are at the Pathfinder Camping display! Scholarships are available from EBC, CABA, and VPMinistries.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION IN APRIL AND MAY THE CHALLENGE OF PAUL WITH JOHN DOMINIC CROSSAN



Join us in the parlor for a study of Paul the apostle, using a new resource from Faith and Reason. We'll meet from 11:30-12:30 on the Sundays listed below.

The Apostle Paul had a significant impact on shaping early Christianity, but is still one of its most debated and misunderstood figures. In *The Challenge of Paul*, John Dominic Crossan gives us the benefit of his lifelong search for the Paul of history to create a new understanding that sheds new light on Paul and why he is more relevant than ever today. John Dominic Crossan brings Paul to life with his distinctive

presentation style. In this provocative series, Crossan confronts our traditional understanding about Paul that seems to support anti-homosexuality, slavery, patriarchy, and the subjugation of women.

April 8	An Appealing or Appalling Apostle?
April 22	How to Read a Pauline Letter
April 29	Romanization of a Radical
May 6	Jewish Covenant vs. Roman Empire



A SPECIAL SUNDAY MORNING ON APRIL 8

You do not want to miss worship on April 8th. There is no such thing as a “Low Sunday” at Emmanuel, but if there were, this would not be one of them. You want to be present for the love and hope always on offer. You want to be present to greet your friends and sing together and hear our great choir and share in our community life, just as you do every week. However, two extra special things are happening that you just do not want to miss.

#1 The dedication of Maren and Leah Appe.

Having recently celebrated their first birthdays, they are full of energy and into everything. We will dedicate ourselves to their spiritual nurture. We will offer our prayers of support for their mothers, Beth and Janet, and the rest of the family surrounding them with love.



#2 The preaching of the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone

Jonathan grew up at Emmanuel, where he heard stories of Jesus and Little Man from an early age. He received his M.Div. from Andover Newton Theological School and his PhD in Theology from the University of Dayton. Jonathan has served churches in Dayton, Ohio, Bryn Mawr, PA, and since 2009, East Greenwich, Rhode Island. He and his wife Rebekah have four boys who take up the majority of both of their free time. When he can sneak away, Dr. Malone loves playing the bassoon in a number of different musical ensembles. He loves reading, hiking, and watching Kung Fu movies (or any other kind of movies).

From Service to Others...

Many faith communities met last year in an inspirational learning conference on racism called *Building the Beloved Community: Beyond Racism*. As a result of that conference, a group called Beyond Racism, continued to meet and work together to help support racial justice in the Albany area.



The Beyond Racism group has sent out an invitation to the second gathering to explore where we are at, as individuals, faith communities, and the community-at-large, and to plot the next steps forward. The gathering will be facilitated by Michael Kennedy of Creative Action UNLIMITED!

It will be held on *April 14, 10:00 am - 3 pm at St. Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church, 900 Madison Ave., Albany.* Lunch provided, free will offering for expenses.

To register, go to Albany Friends Meeting facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/albanyfriendsmeeting/>
Go to upcoming events: Click on April 14 Building the Beloved Community and indicate you are going to the event.



CROP Walk – May 6

The 38th Annual Albany CROP Hunger Walk is scheduled for Sunday, May 6th. 25% of all funds raised by the Capital Region CROP Hunger Walks goes to local food pantries and soup kitchens. More than 40,000 people in our region use local free meal programs to provide adequate food for their families. 75% of the funds help support the work of Church World Service (CWS) and its partners for hunger relief and development projects around the world.

The walk begins and ends at First Lutheran Church (on Western Avenue between Quail and Lake). Registration starts at 12:30 pm, and the walk officially steps off at 1:30pm. Walkers can choose either a 3 mile loop with rest stops or the shorter “Golden Mile” loop. Sign up sheets and sponsor record envelopes for walkers will be available starting March 25. Walkers will also be able to register for on-line donations. Please consider walking or sponsoring a member of Emmanuel’s team. See Nancy Horan to register or if you have any questions. (Note: The 2017 Albany CROP Hunger Walk ranked #7 in the nation in terms of funds raised with a total of \$95,660)

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.



Volunteers Needed

Family Promise is an organization dedicated to helping homeless/low-income families achieve independence. One part of the program is housing families in various churches from 5 in the evening until 7 in the morning for 1 week at a time. Delmar Reformed is one of the participating churches and will host a family from April 15 to 22. Volunteers are needed. If you are willing to cook a meal or stay over night as a chaperone, please contact Karen Kendall.



The **Homeless Action Committee** is holding its **25th Annual Sleep-A-Thon** on **Friday, April 6th** between 5-12pm in **Townsend Park** in Albany. Go to the park for at least one hour and help raise money to support their programs. To register: <http://www.homelessaction.com> in the *events* section.



Join us for...

**Interfaith Center
Closing Event
Saturday, May 19
6:00-9:00 pm**

For the last 50+ years the Interfaith Center at the University at Albany has served as the home for Interfaith Work and the home of Cornerstone Campus Ministry, Hillel and Newman Catholic Ministry. In December 2016, the building was sold to the University and now UAlbany has made the decision to close the building. Please join us as we share the end of an era, as we honor the work that has been done and mark the closing of the building. RSVP's are welcome. Open to all students, alumni and congregational partners who have been at the center of our work. -- Rev. Sandy J. Damhof
518-489-8573 x 26 (office) 518-495-0029 (cell)
sdamhof@albany.edu www.ualbanycornerstone.org

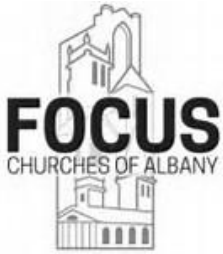
Looking Ahead

**PEACE LAB
AN EMMANUEL RETREAT AT PATHFINDER**

**Thursday, August 2 to
Sunday, August 5**

For all ages!! Bring your friends!

There will be some VBS style programming for children, with youth and adult leadership. Also plenty of time for recreation, meditation, and fellowship. Pathfinder is handicapped accessible. Registration fee of \$55 includes all meals. Housing is available starting at \$50 per night for a cabin that sleeps 8 people. For details, children's rates, part time attendance, etc. talk to a Christian Growth Commission member (Marilyn, Beth, Gretchen, Jim, Ericka, Audrey) More information and registration forms are available on the Pathfinder Camping display in fellowship hall.



**FOCUS Pancake
Breakfast**

Saturday, April 14

Delmar Reformed Church

to Benefit the FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry

Saturday, April 14th 8:00am – 11:00am

\$7.00 per person & Kids under 5 FREE

Please contact Lorraine @ FOCUS Food Pantry if you know a local business (or you yourself) might like to sponsor this event. We have a range of affordable sponsorship levels.

lorraineh@focuschurches.net 518- 443-0460

**Remember the
Food Pantry...**

April: deodorant



**Deadline for the May
MOSAIC is April 18**

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

**Please Note...
Coordinating Council:
April 10, 5:30**

**Congregational Mtg. & Diaconate
April 15 after worship**



Emmanuel Baptist Church
275 State St.
Albany, NY 12210

