# THE MOSAIC

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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

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## *Pastoral Ponderings*

In June, about 2 dozen of us attended a workshop on church governance presented by the Rev. Dr. Jim Kelsey, the Executive Minister for American Baptists in New York State. He answered a lot of our questions, but I was more intriqued by the questions he posed for us. He described a role for church leaders whom he called *Keepers of the Vision.* He said that their job is to keep asking the questions, "What business are we in and how are we doing?"

Dr. Kelsey also pointed out that in earlier times churches were full-service operations. They had ministries designed for the needs of all kinds of people at every stage of life in every circumstance. But, he said, that as churches have become smaller, they have become specialized, with more particular, focused ministries. Becoming specialized may mean doing fewer things, but doing them very well. That led me to reflect on our recent life together and ask "what is Emmanuel doing very well?" I offer my top five list here and hope that you will also think about this and share your list with me.

1. **Inclusion** – All are welcome really and truly means all here. From providing hearing assistance units and accessible restrooms, to marching in the Pride parade to inviting children to lead worship to making room for newcomers, we seek to break down any barriers that might divide us.

2. **Compassion** – I see it in our prayerful concern for Syrian refugees on the other side of the world and Karen refugees in our neighborhood and when we give to One Great Hour of Sharing at its regular collection and then again when disaster strikes. Compassion is evident in the ministry of presence and hugs and cards and phone calls we share with EBC members at funerals and in hospital rooms and other hard times and in the faithful weekly service of volunteers at the FOCUS breakfast program and food pantry.

3. **Creativity** – We are blessed with artists and visionaries and folks who have practiced necessity being the mother of invention for a long time. Many pastors hear the deadly mantra "But we've never done it that way before" on a regular basis. I almost never hear that at EBC, and when I do, it is often in jest. Our success in previous creative endeavors (like removing the pews) gives us courage to follow the Spirit's leading into new adventures.

4. **Worship** – We place a high value on the time we share together on Sunday mornings, gathering in community and attending to the Holy. We bind ourselves to God and to each other through song, scripture, prayer and proclamation. We strive for excellence, but authenticity and engaged participation are most important.


*continued…*

5. **Spiritual Formation** – We seek to follow Jesus' command to make disciples. Our educational efforts include such things as Sunday School for all ages, weekday Bible study, annual retreats, invitations and financial support to attend conferences, teaching sermons, special guests and seasonal small groups. Of the top five things that we do well, this is the one that I see as most in danger. It is still a priority for many of us, but the demands on our time and energy are great and many of us feel increasingly pulled in too many directions. Time for personal spiritual practice and for sharing with others may be one of the first things sacrificed in the current race of life.

What does Emmanuel do very well – Inclusion, Compassion, Creativity, Worship and Spiritual Formation. That's my list. I would love to know how you would answer the question "what business are we in and how are we doing?"

*Blessings,*
*Kathy*

Adoniram Judson

## Combined Worship Service on July 10

The congregations of Emmanuel Baptist Church and the Gethesemane Karen Baptist Church will worship together in celebration of Judson Day on July 10, at our regular time of 10:00 a.m. Adoniram and Ann Judson were Baptist missionaries to Burma (now Myanmar) 200 years ago. They shared the gospel with the people there and were most well received by the Karen and Kachin people. Ann died of smallpox after 13 years of faithful service in Burma. Adoniram died at age 61, having spent 37 years in missionary service abroad with only one trip back home to America When he died, he left the Bible translated into Karen, 100 churches, and over 8,000 Christians. Today, Myanmar has the third largest number of Baptists worldwide, behind the United States and India.

The Rev. Dr. Jim Kelsey, Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of New York State will preach in English with Karen translation. Following Karen tradition, his sermon will include some of the Judson's biography. This event will also provide an official welcome into ABC/USA for the Gethsemane Karen Church. We will sing in both Karen and English and enjoy selections from both church choirs. Please note: all cash offering and any designated checks will go to support scholarships to Pathfinder this summer.

Ann "Nancy" H. Judson

**Focus Summer Worship Schedule:**

**All services will be held at <u>10:00 a.m.</u>**

July 3 - at First Church
Aug. 7 - at Delmar Reformed
Sept. 4 - at Westminster Presbyterian

American Baptist Home Mission Societies
SINCE 1824

*The American Baptist Home Mission Society released two statements in response to the mass shooting in the Pulse nightclub in Orlando on June 12 which are excerpted below. The full statements may be found at http://abhms.org/*

## ABHMS Urges American Baptists to Advocate for Gun Violence Prevention

Following the recent mass shooting in Orlando, Fla., American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) stands with Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence (FUPGV) and the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America (BPFNA) in urging American Baptists to advocate for gun violence prevention.

Resources related to the Orlando incident and gun violence prevention are available on FUPGV's website at http://faithsunited.org and BPFNA's website at www.bpfna.org. ABHMS is a FUPGV member and BPFNA partner.

## American Baptist Home Mission Societies Stands with LGBTQ Community in wake of Orlando Massacre

"We are anguished and aggrieved at this heinous massacre where the evils of terrorism, gun violence and hatred against members of the LGBTQ communities converged," says ABHMS Executive Director Dr. Jeffrey Haggray. "We condemn with the strongest language possible whatever ideologies and sentiments contribute to a culture of homophobia, bigotry, hatred and violence against fellow children of God, including our LGBTQ brothers and sisters. We are all created in the image of God, and God's love for all people is steadfast, immovable and unconditional."

The hateful speech condoning hatred and violence against LGBTQ persons heard from voices in the religious community under cover of religion is wrong and condemnable. Such religious extremism should be rejected in the clearest terms. These voices do not reflect our Loving God who calls upon us to connect with all people, cultivate healthy communities and change our world with attitudes and actions that reflect the love demonstrated by Jesus Christ.

"In addition to our heartfelt expressions of sympathy, compassion and concern for the victims of the shooting and their families," says Haggray, "we express solidarity and concern for all LGBTQ persons in Orlando, and across our nation, who live each day in vulnerability and fear of judgment and rejection as well as discrimination and violence.

# *From Service to Others…*

## ABC/NYS Regional Offering…

### *Honesty, Connectedness, and Hope:*

These are the organizing values that shape Region life, and we work to foster these same values in our congregations. We guide congregations into candid conversations about their current identity and work with them to assess their context for ministry and the changes it has undergone ~ making honest assesments with confidence that God is with us. We help build relationships ~ connectedness ~ among our churches by bringing them together in shared mission efforts, such as our mission trips to Nicaragua, our ABC/NYS Youth Convention and Associational life. We sponsor Region-wide conferences. We sow hope among our churches as we train lay pastors and leaders, support churches in the ordination process, and provide pastoral care to pastors. We help churches that are struggling with purpose or need guidance in adminstrtion of their corporate life. All of this is an act of hope. The Region exists to strengthen and boraden the ministry of our ABC congregations.

On Sundays, July 17, 24 and 31 you will have the opportunity to support this ministry with your gifts. Envelopes will be provided for your convenience.

## Mission Trip Planned for Fall

We have been invited by the people of Bethel Baptist Church in Rama Nicaragua to visit them in October and provide them with a medical clinic. Bethel Church is the 3rd church established by the Pierres. Rama is a city of 60,000 with limited health care. For example, there is no hospital and no pediatricians. The people at Bethel hope to establish a medical clinic and they seek our help to begin that process. We will provide an "acute care clinic" and likely see about 700 people while we are there. We will help identify individuals with chronic illness who need a long term health plan. We hope to establish an oral health and anemia identification and treatment program for children and also provide teaching materials about hypertension, diabetes and anemia. We hope to begin to identify resources and people who will be leaders in community health care to start their goal of establishing a clinic.

At this point, Tom Lahut, Jean Burton and Marilyn and Tony Malone are going from Emmanuel and Emmanuel is providing the leadership for the trip. Our trips in the past have been so successful because of the wonderful support of Emmanuel and friends of Emmanuel. Keep the group in your thoughts and prayers. More information to come on ways you can help!

**Remember the Food Pantry…**

*July: shampoo*

*August: razors & toothbrushes*

## A Note on Charitable Contributions from Liselle LaFrance

From the April issue of ***Kiplinger's Personal Finance:*** **"**Congress reanimated an expired tax provision that allows taxpayers age 70 ½ and older to transfer up to $100,000 from their IRAs to charity. The contribution counts toward donors' required minimum distributions without increasing their adjusted gross income. "

*"Communication is the problem to the answer"* as an old song says. Communication is essential to maintaining and enhancing our connections at Emmanuel. We are always trying to improve the ways we communicate. If you are reading this newsletter, you are participating in one of our communication loops. Thank you!

Here are some other tools we use:

**Sunday morning announcements** – these are projected onto the screen before worship, and shared orally and in the printed bulletin. To get your announcement into the projected stream and the printed bulletin, please provide the information to Dorothy in the church office no later than Wednesday morning.

**EBC-Announce** is a Yahoo group to which you may subscribe. We use it to share things like prayer requests, reminders about upcoming events, and denominational press releases. Subscribers receive e-mails with these messages. To subscribe, simple send a blank e-mail message to: ebc-announce-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. You will receive a return message with instructions for activating your membership in the group. You may unsubscribe at any time.

**If you are a Facebook user, please "like" our Facebook page**. This is often one of the first places you will see photos of EBC events. In a given week, it might also include invitations to events at Emmanuel or elsewhere in the community, articles by Baptist leaders, and links to articles about issues of concern to Emmanuelites. If you have already liked us on Facebook, please try to interact with some of the postings by commenting, sharing, or liking a post. All of that interaction increases traffic to our page which is another way of introducing ourselves to people who might be looking for a church home. https://www.facebook.com/EmmanuelBaptistChurchAlbany/

**Slack** is a group messaging app that we have begun using for on-line small group communications. We used it as part of our journaling practice in Lent and also alongside the adult Sunday School class on Making Sense of the Cross. It could also be used in the future for committee or commission communications. Slack can be used on a personal computer or on a device like a smartphone. The app is found at www.slack.com. To join Emmanuel's group, you need an invitation from a current member. Simply ask Kathy Moore or Pastor Kathy to send you an invitation.

# *From Christian Growth & Development…*

**A Teacher's Meeting is scheduled for August 23 at the church, 5:30 pm.**
**A light supper will be provided. Please mark your calendars now!**

***Below is information about a symposium that Marilyn Malone plans to attend in Connecticut this fall. Feel free to speak with her for more information.***

## LifeLong Faith Family Symposium
## Avon CT: September 29-October 1
## Mineapolis MN: October 20-22

## Symposium Topics

*The program will be blend of theory and practice presentations, group discussion, strategy design, and practical application activities.*

1. Transforming Our Perspectives on the 21st Century Family
2. Reimagining Family Faith Formation for the 21st Century
3. A "Families at the Center Approach" to Faith Formation

   Growing in Family as a Family

   Nurturing the Faith Growth of Young People

   Building a Strong Family Life Together

   Equipping Parents as Faith Fomers

   Participating in the Congregation as Families

   Reaching out to Families Missionally

4. Developing an Integrated Strategy for 21st Century Family Faith Formation

## Symposium Schedule

**Thursday**

| | |
|---|---|
| 11 am | Registration |
| 1 pm | Session 1 |
| 5:30 pm | Dinner |
| 7:00 pm | Session 2 |

**Friday**

| | |
|---|---|
| 8:00 am | Breakfast |
| 9:00 am | Session 3 |
| 12 noon | Lunch |
| 1:30 pm | Session 4 |
| 5:30 pm | Dinner |
| 7:00 pm | Session 5 |

**Saturday**

| | |
|---|---|
| 8:00 am | Breakfast |
| 9:00 am | Session 6 |
| 12:00 pm | Close |

The $310 Registration Fee includes your tuition, all five meals, and all of the preparation materials for the Symposium including a copy of the new book Families at the Center of *Faith Formatio*n (to be released by July 1, 2016).

**Something New**
**Coming this Fall**
**Just for YOUTH**
**Watch for it…**
**Wait for it**

**Saturday**
**July 9, 2016**
**3:00-6:00 p.m.**
Pastor Kathy's House
in Loudonville

Pool opens at 3:00. Swimmers, bring your swimsuit and a towel. All children and youth need a supervising adult.

We'll fire up the grill at about 5:00. Hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages provided. Please bring a dish to share. Lawn chairs helpful too.

RSVP by July 5 to
jimwilkerson65@gmail.com
or 506-7646

## Summer Picnic and Baseball Outing
## July 24

Beth and Janet, Marilyn and Tony invite you to a church summer picnic at their back yard, 112 Greenleaf Dr/17 Fireside Ln., Latham. Bring a dish to share; beverages and meat for the grill will be provided.

Later that day, enjoy the fun of an exciting baseball game as the Tri-City Valley Cats take on the Vermont Lake Monsters!

Game Schedule:

3:30 Sunday Summer Reading
(Southpaw reads a book to the kids, who go home with their very own copy!)

4:00 Kids allowed on the field for a pregame catch

5:00 Game starts

After the game, kids can go on the field and run the bases and get autographs

Price: **$6.25** per ticket (includes a voucher for a hot dog and soda.)

**Deadline** for sign-up and payment for the game is **<u>Sunday, July 17</u>**

***Summer Office Hours ~ 9:00 to 1:00***
***Office Closed ~ July 4***

# Successful CROP Walk

Emmanuel's team of walkers raised $1,680.
Well done, EBC!

Capital District

Grand Total: $83,000

# Congregation Asked to Sign Charter for Compassion

On July 17, at Emmanuel's quarterly meeting, Edith Leet plans to introduce the following motion:

**I move that Emmanuel Baptist Church sign the Charter for Compassion and become a Partner in the Charter for Compassion International.**

The Charter for Compassion is a worldwide movement aimed at encouraging people to think and act compassionately. Its goal is **"**to make compassion a clear, luminous, and dynamic force in our polarized world." (All quoted material comes from the CfC website, http://www.charterforcompassion.org.) There is no cost to become a Partner.

If the vote is "Yes," Emmanuel will join a "network of networks" of organizations and communities around the world who are working to solve problems compassionately, bring about reconciliation between enemies, and promote peace. As a Partner, Emmanuel will be able to:

- Connect the compassion and compassionate action that we already bring to the work we do with the work and hopes of others who have the same vision of a more compassionate and peaceful world.
- Communicate and connect with others to share our experiences and learn from others about what they are doing to ignite and grow compassionate action.
- Have a link to Emmanuel on the CfC website so that our work will be visible to others.
- Join a Facebook group where CfC's varied and vibrant Partners share events, resources, and advice.
- Listen and participate in regular CfC telephone conference calls—usually including a provocative speaker followed by discussion among CFC members and partners.
- Receive CfC newsletters to learn of the worldwide activities of the Charter for Compassion International, including events, news, conferences, and other resources that may be helpful to us.

The text of the Charter for Compassion states:

***The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical, and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honour the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity, and respect.***

***It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest; to impoverish, exploit, or deny basic rights to anybody; and to incite hatred by denigrating others—even our enemies—is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.***

***We therefore call upon all men and women to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion ~ to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred, or disdain is illegitimate ~ to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures ~ to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity ~ to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings—even those regarded as enemies.***

***We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous, and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological, and religious boundaries. Born of our deep inter-dependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.***

For full information about the Charter and Partnership, please visit their website at http://www.charterforcompassion.org.

# FOCUS Churches of Albany School Supply List:

- #2 PENCILS (sharpened)
- PENCIL POUCHES
- PENCIL SHARPENERS
- SCHOOL SCISSORS
- COLORED PENCILS
- 2 POCKET FOLDERS
- YELLOW HI-LIGHTERS
- 3X5 INDEX CARDS
- 12" RULERS
- 3" STICKY-BACK PADS
- CALCULATORS
- BACK PACKS (not fancy)
- BALL POINT PENS (black or blue)
- PLASTIC PENCIL BOXES (about 5x8")
- GLUE STICKS / GLUE BOTTLES
- CRAYONS - 24 COUNT
- COLORED MARKERS
- 2" PINK ERASERS
- NOTEBOOK PAPER (COLLEGE & WIDE)
- 1-SUBJECT SPIRALS (COLLEGE )
- 1 MARBLE COMP BOOKS (college & wide)
- 3 RING BINDERS - HARD COVER 1 OR 1-1/2"
- DRY ERASE MARKERS

NO OTHER ITEMS PLEASE — THANK YOU !

Monetary contributions are also appreciated.

Together we can help equip children adequately for the start of the new school year. Contributions should be marked "FOCUS School Supplies" and may be sent to

FOCUS: 275 State Street, Albany 12210.

*If you have questions, you may contact Becca Leet.*

## FOCUS On Schools Needs Volunteers Too

Sorting and distribution dates will be Monday, August 15, Tuesday, August 16 from 10 to noon each day and Wednesday, August 17 from 9:30 to 12:30 and 4:30 to 7:30. If you wish to help, please contact Becca Leet at (518) 443-0460.

**Men's Gathering Scheduled**

Emmanuel men are invited to meet for lunch at the Normanside restaurant on **July 6**, 11:45 a.m. If you plan to attend, please contact Bob Hunziker so adequate seating can be arranged. We hope you'll join us!

**Ladies Lunch Planned**

Emmanuel ladies will gather at The Restaurant at the Point on **Thursday, August 4 (**11:30 a.m.) to enjoy lunch together. If you plan to attend, please contact Pat Hunziker or Betty Mallory so adequate seating can be arranged.

**Congregational Meeting**
**July 17**
**following worship**

**Coordinating Council**
**July 27, 5:30 pm**
**at church**

## Work Days

**July 16**
and
**August 20**
**9 a.m. to Noon**
**light lunch provided**

There are tasks for all skill levels.
We hope to see you there!

*Many hands make light work.*

# *Happy Birthday…*

| | |
|---|---|
| MaKayla Smith | 1st |
| Lydia Johnson | 3rd |
| Amanda Gibson | 4th |
| Kevin Cole | 6th |
| Bessie Gibson | 10th |
| Nancy Horan | 11th |
| Tracy Collins | 14th |
| Andrea Carver | 14th |
| Kendra Lahut | 14th |
| Rebecca Lamar (Malone) | 21st |
| Jim Wilkerson | 23rd |
| Paw E Kler | 24th |
| Dah Blut Soe | 24th |
| Esther Moore | 26th |
| Elaine Clark | 29th |
| Amber Collins | 31st |
| Randolph Franklin | 31st |

**AUGUST**

| | |
|---|---|
| Elisabeth Scheu | 1st |
| Bill Silverman | 2nd |
| Kimberly Norwood | 5th |
| Sam Hill | 8th |
| Michael Green | 11th |
| Ruth Johnson | 21st |
| Beverly Norwood | 22nd |
| Parmilla Allen | 23rd |
| Shamaal Ford | 26th |
| Liselle LaFrance | 28th |
| Karen Kendall | 30th |

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

**The next *MOSAIC* will be published in August; deadine, August 18. That newsletter will highlight upcoming September events.**

**Save the date!**

**Saturday, September 24**

an Emmanuel retreat on refreshing and deepening your prayer life

Stay tuned for details this Summer!

Emmanuel Baptist Church
275 State St.
Albany, NY  12210