# THE MOSAIC

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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

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## *Pastoral Ponderings*

I feel like I'm stuck inside an old-fashioned pinball machine. For many of the last few weeks, I have found myself bouncing from a place of inspiration and encouragement to a place of anger and outrage.

I am the ball inside the machine ricocheting back and forth between two hard obstacles. I am tremendously encouraged by the stories coming from Sacred Stone Camp and other nearby camps in North Dakota, where thousands of people have gathered in peace. They have come together to protect the Missouri River from contamination in the event of a burst broken oil pipeline, if the Dakota Access Pipeline is permitted to carry oil under the river, which they hope to prevent. I am inspired by the grass-roots nature of this protest. At one point, I checked the GoFundMe account through which people from all over the world were sending financial support. At that time, over $500,000 had been given. The average gift was $47. I am inspired by their commitment to prayer and non-violence as the most effective way to accomplish their mission.

Then I am thrown hard against the mounting evidence of systemic racism which surfaces in one community and then another and another. Such evidence includes the overwhelmingly disproportionate number of people with black and brown skin in our prisons, people of color dying in police custody, people with disabilities or conditions such as deafness or traumatic brain injury or mental illness being shot and killed by police without any attempt to ascertain those conditions, the fact that young people are being disciplined for peaceful, silent protest during the singing of the National Anthem and when they are driven to less peaceful forms of protests, they are labelled thugs who need to be taught about respect. I am outraged when I realize that a police officer who chose not to shoot a suicidal man was fired for that decision, after the suicidal man was killed by another officer.


*Continued…*

Bouncing back in the other direction again, I am heartened by the people who showed up in support of Marquis Dixon, a 16 year old African-American youth who was sentenced to serve 9 years in adult prison for stealing a $300 pair of sneakers. The standing-room only crowd bore witness in the Albany court room as his unjust sentence was appealed. I am strengthened to hear that my clergy colleagues, many of them Baptists, have walked the streets in Charlotte during each night of the riots, seeking peace with justice in that city they call home.

A long time ago, St. Augustine of Hippo said, "Hope has two beautiful daughters: their names are Anger and Courage. Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that they do not remain as they are."

As I ricochet between Anger and Courage, I choose to believe that this pinball game is called Hope. I am not the only one inside Hope. I know that many of you are here too. And I would remind us that Jesus said, "These things I have spoken to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world, you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

*Blessings,*
*Kathy*

October begins with World Communion.
Perhaps our faith today must begin with the world - -
with Christians killed for their faith,
with refugees fleeing wars that never end,
with leaders who, quite simply, don't know what to do.

October begins with World Communion.
Perhaps we should begin - together
with a bit of bread and the cup
with prayer
and, by the grace of God, with hope.

*Join us in celebration of World Communion Sunday at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 2. Our communion bread will include loaves from around the world. If you own an article of clothing from another culture or country, you are invited to wear it to worship.*

## Consecretaion Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our Coordinating Council has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

*New Consecration Sunday* is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world. Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card. We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Liselle LaFrance, Moderator

## *From Service to Others…*

### World Mission Offering to be Received

On Sundays, October 9, 16, 23 and 30 you will have the opportunity to donate to this annual appeal. Gifts support International Ministries' partners and nearly 1,800 missionaries and global workers in more than 70 countries around the world. Our gifts this year will be designated toward the work of missionaries, Ketley and Vital Pierre in the Dominican and the newly opened opportunities in Cuba. Envelopes will be provided for your convenience. If you have questions, you may contact Karen Kendall.

*Deadline for the November issue of the MOSAIC is October 18.*

## Invitation from FOCUS

Join us Wednesday, October 26th at 6:30pm for a screening of "The Hand That Feeds", an award winning documentary about the struggle to organize a café in Manhattan.

From the film description:

> *At a popular bakery cafe, residents of New York's Upper East Side get bagels and coffee served with a smile 24 hours a day. But behind the scenes, undocumented immigrant workers face sub-legal wages, dangerous machinery, and abusive managers who will fire them for calling in sick. Mild-mannered sandwich maker Mahoma Lopez has never been interested in politics, but in January 2012, he convinces a small group of his co-workers to fight back.•*

Join us to watch the film, and afterwards discuss with local Fight for $15 workers and organizers some of the lessons learned and the ways we can advance our movement in the Capital Region.

This screening is free and open to the public. $5 donation requested to support striking workers locally. Childcare will be provided. To watch the trailer, go to thehandthatfeedsfilm.com
For more information, e-mail Joe Paparone - joep@focuschurches.net

## *Nicaragua Mission Trip*
## *October 7-15*

Please keep the following people in your prayers as they journey to Nicaragua: 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.

Along with your prayers, the team would appreciate monetary gifts and donations of supplies (listed below in order of preference). 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.

**Please bring donations to Emmanuel by Sunday, Oct. 2:**

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

## October Is "Wear Your Nametag Month"

Diaconate has declared October to be "Wear Your Nametag Month." Nametags help first-time visitors, long-time members, and everyone in between to get to know each other faster and without the embarrassment of forgetting someone's name.

***If you need or want a new nametag***, please sign the sheet in Fellowship Hall or tell Edith Leet at 518-482-6612 or at edith.leet@outlook.com. You can choose your color and specify whether you want a pinback (with sharp, functional point) or a clipback tag. The colors available are

Red Orange Yellow Green Blue Purple Rainbow

## *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 brinksmanship—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

# Remember the Food Pantry...

*October: deodorant and shampoo*

# *Music at Emmanuel:*

## Come to the Cabaret…
## "HouseWorks and HomeWorks"

**Saturday, October 29**

**6:30 pm**

*Delictible sweets available for purchase*

*Proceeds will support future medical mission trips*

## "Just Duet!"

**Sunday, October 2**

**4:00 pm**

Sandra Schujman and Irina Tikhonenko, mezzo-sopranos, accompanied by pianist Michael Clement, in a concert of duets from operas and chamber music; music of Monteverdi, Handel, Offenbach, Mendelssohn, Viardot and others. Admission Free/Donations Appreciated.

## Pianofest…

*a concert series offered by three capital district pianists*

- **7:30 pm Friday, October 15--** Gary Gallucci, pianist and composer (and cherished piano technician), performing original works;
- **4:30 pm Sunday, October 16,** Jonathan Newell plays a varied program
- **7 pm Sunday, October 16,** Maestro Gioacchino Longobardi performing unpublished works of 16th and 17th century Neapolitan masters.

Admission Free/Donations Appreciated
Information: mclement14@nycap.rr.com

Dear Friends:
Stacy joins me in extending hearfelt appreciation for your continued support as we walk this difficult and unpredictable path. We are grateful for the cards and notes and the words of love and concern that have been passed along. The journey continues, but it is comforting to know that your prayers are with us.

With love and appreciation,
Dorothy

***Notice of Meetings…***

**October** 3 ~ Coordinating Council @ church
16 ~ Diaconate & Quarterly Congregational Mtg.
17 ~ Advent Com. 6 pm; parlor

**Ladies, Youre Invited!**
Emmanuel women will gather for lunch at *The Restaurant at the Pointe* on Thursday, October 6 at 11:45 a.m. If you plan to attend, please let Betty Mallory or Pat Hunziker know.

**Christmas Pageant**

Looking to take part in a meaningful aspect of Christmas at Emmanuel? Become involved in the Christmas Pageant! We are looking for three actresses, one actor, and three parts which could be either. Also, four readers, and a few people for bit parts. If you are interested, please speak with Becca Leet.

***Church Office Closed***
***October 10***

Party Planned
Saturday,
October 22

Costume parade…dinner…games…
**FUN FOR ALL!**
Mark your calendar and join us.
A sign up sheet can be found in Fellowship Hall.

## *Happy Birthday…*

| | |
|---|---|
| Chris Moaton | 1st |
| MarilynMalone | 6th |
| Jim Woodard | 6th |
| Warren Burton | 6th |
| Bien Baez | 11th |
| Julie Shaw | 13th |
| Taylor Stroebel | 16th |
| Bernie Kennedy | 20th |
| Madeline Green | 23rd |
| Heather Green | 28th |

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

**ABY Convention**
***"Never Alone"***
**Summary of the key details:**
**When**: November 4-6
**Where**: Holiday Inn Syracuse
**How much**: $150 per person Early Bird rate (after 10/5 the price is $160)
**Who**: 7-12th graders, college students and adult chaperones/youth leaders
**What**: Main Sessions (Rob Ely- speaker; Nate Maxfield- worship), Workshops, Small Groups, Mission Project, Dinners, ABY Showcase (talent show), friends, fun and more!

It's Coming on

Emmanuel Baptist Church
275 State St.
Albany, NY  12210