

THE MOSAIC

Published monthly by
EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

**275 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NY 12210**

Office: (518) 465-5161

emmanuelalbany@juno.com

November 2019

Volume XXXVI No. 10

Pastoral Ponderings



Our weekly prayer time for the last few Sundays has included an eyes-open visual prayer. We have projected images that inspire wonder and gratitude. Thanks to each of you who have contributed images. Some have come from your travels. Some from your neighborhood or your own backyard. Also included have been images of people, members of our own faith community who also evoke a sense of wonder and gratitude. We have seen the faces of our children, some taken within the week and some from a few years ago, as a reminder of how they are growing up among us. We have seen faces of adults doing ordinary tasks like singing or changing a lightbulb or nurturing children. And we have seen the faces of some departed saints. I have appreciated the choir's song accompanying these images, reminding us that good gifts surround us and the best response we can offer is gratitude.

I am grateful for you, the community of faith known as Emmanuel Baptist Church. I am grateful for the open arms with which you embrace newcomers and the ways you stand alongside long-term members in crisis or grief. I appreciate your generosity of money, time and spirit in supporting the ongoing ministry of this church, as well as the unexpected needs which come our way. Thank you for your willingness to persevere through the chaos of a new governance structure and to listen to each other with love in the midst of that stress.

Images of autumn trees and fallen leaves in the visual prayer reminded me of this poem, one of my favorites:

Pied Beauty

Gerard Manly Hopkins, 1918

GLORY be to God for dappled things –
For skies of couple-colour as a brindled cow;
For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;
Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings:
Landscape plotted and pieced – fold, fallow, and plough;
And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.

All things counter, original, spare, strange;
Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)
With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;
He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:
Praise him.





Sunday, November 3

11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Chili and cornbread lunch provided.

Join us and invite a friend.

Please rsvp by calling the church office by Thursday, October 31, or indicate you're GOING to the event on the church Facebook page.

The River and the Wall follows five friends on an immersive adventure through the unknown wilds of the Texas borderlands as they travel 1200 miles from El Paso to the Gulf of Mexico on horses, mountain bikes, and canoes. Conservation filmmaker Ben Masters realizes the urgency of documenting the last remaining wilderness in Texas as the threat of new border wall construction looms ahead. Masters recruits NatGeo Explorer Filipe DeAndrade, ornithologist Heather Mackey, river guide Austin Alvarado, and conservationist Jay Kleberg to join him on the two-and-a-half-month journey down 1,200 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border.

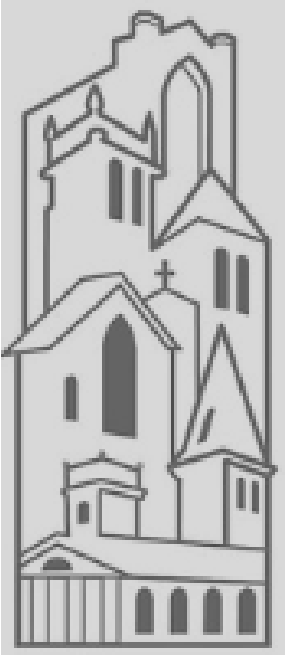
They set out to document the borderlands and explore the potential impacts of a wall on the natural environment, but as the wilderness gives way to the more populated and heavily trafficked Lower Rio Grande Valley, they come face-to-face with the human side of the immigration debate and enter uncharted emotional waters.

FOCUS Immigration Task Force

FOCUS Churches has launched the first of three anticipated task forces. This first one is charged with attending to the issue of immigration as a social justice concern. It met for the first time on October 20 with representatives from Emmanuel and Westminster in attendance. Representatives from other FOCUS churches had indicated interest, but were not available on that particular night.

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, November 10 at 6:00 p.m. At that meeting, we will begin to educate ourselves about the needs of local immigrant communities with a presentation by two guest speakers. LJ D'Arrigo is an immigration attorney and Executive Board Member/Treasurer at The Legal Project. Mike Wilk is an immigration attorney as well as President of the Board of Directors at RISSE (Refugee and Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus). If you are interested in joining this work or if you know someone from another FOCUS church who is, it is not too late. Pastor Kathy is convening the group and will be glad to hear that you plan to participate.


Thankful



FOCUS NEWS:

Winter Breakfast Needs Volunteers Program begins November 5

Prep Cook: Tuesdays at 6 am

Volunteers: Wednesdays at 6:30 am

Call Belinda at 518-443-0460 if you can help.

Breakfast Club is preparing to restock items in anticipation of the winter season for our guests, and have the following needs:

Men's tee-shirts (M, L, XL, XXL)

Men's boxers (M, L, XL, XXL)

Men's winter socks

Men's gloves

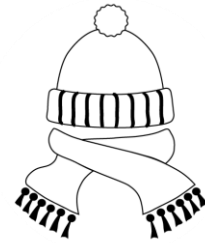
Men's hats

Women's hats

Women's gloves

Women's winter socks

Children's hats



Mark your Calendar!

A documentary film about Palestinian human rights will be shown three times in the Capital District in November and December. Between 500 and 700 Palestinian children are detained and prosecuted each year in the Israeli military court system. Some are as young as 12 years old. Often they are arrested in their homes in the middle of the night. The most common charge is throwing stones. *Imprisoning a Generation* follows four of these young people and describes their experiences, as well as showing the impact it has on their families. Show times are Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. at the Bethlehem Public Library in Delmar, Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. at 1st Reformed Church in Schenectady, and 6:15 p.m. at the William K. Sanford Library in Schenectady.

The film showings are sponsored by the Palestinian Rights Committee, Upper Hudson Peace Action, and Churches for Middle East Peace. More information is available at facebook.com/prcalbany and prcalbany@gmail.com.

Nov. 20 is also [Universal Children's Day](#), a day to promote and celebrate children's rights, including the right to be protected from violence and discrimination. Several organizations, including [Churches for Middle East Peace](#) and [Jewish Voice for Peace](#) are urging people to call their Congressional representatives on that day as part of the [No Way to Treat a Child Campaign](#). We are asked to urge our representative to co-sponsor H.R. 2407, the "Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act." The bill would prohibit U.S. taxpayer funding for the military detention of children by any country, including Israel.

Mini Peace Camp Highlights Immigration and Racism

The human costs of America's immigration policies and racism were highlighted at a Mini Peace Camp attended by four members of Emmanuel in October. The program was sponsored by the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America (BPFNA).

One presenter for the two-day event was Rev. Ray Schellinger, ABC-USA's International Ministries Global Consultant for Immigration and Refugees. His talk was based on his experiences in working with refugees and those seeking political asylum at the border crossing between Tijuana, Mexico, and San Diego.



"It's all about leaving home and not knowing where you are going," he explained. He noted that 70 million people are homeless around the world. Some 25 million are not in their home country and must seek refuge in another land, but there are fewer and fewer places for them to go.

Members of Emmanuel who attended the Mini Peace Camp in Greece, NY, were (1 to r) Edith Leet, Andrea Carver, Nancy Horan, and Becca Leet.

At the same time, America's immigration policies have become stricter, making it all but impossible for many immigrants to comply. He noted that the process for asylum seekers involves a series of interviews and court appearances that take place over weeks or months. In the meantime, people must wait in a detention center in the US or find shelter in Tijuana. The cost for posting bond to leave a detention center recently went from \$5,000 to \$16,000, a sum that is impossible for most refugees to raise.

On Friday night, a concert by Reggie Harris and Glen Greenway put the spotlight on racism. The two folksingers have performed together for more than 30 years. On Saturday, they led a workshop on overcoming racism and emphasized the importance of relationships. "To make change happen, we need to make relationships happen," they explained. "Life will give you the opportunity to reach across a barrier. Go out of your way to make that opportunity happen. Listen for someone's heart song." *

Another feature of the conference was watching Rev. Katie Jo Suddaby create a sand mandala using the ancient Tibetan Buddhist art of sand painting. She starts the mandala at the beginning of the conference, and at its end, she invites people to sweep the sand into a pile.

The sand is later poured into a flowing stream. The practice teaches people to accept the impermanence of our world.



Emmanuel attendees received financial help from the Christian Growth and Development budget and two of them received financial help from the Lynette C. Martin Memorial Fund for Leadership Development. The fund is administered by ABC-NYS and designed to help individuals take courses and/or attend events that will make them more effective leaders in their local ministries.

More information is available at <http://www.abc-nys.org/lynette-martin-educational-fund.html>.

* Reggie Harris and Glen Greenway will be performing a concert on Friday, Nov. 22, at THE 8TH STEP AT PROCTORS: The Addie Theatre, at 432 State St., Schenectady, NY. More information is available at <https://www.8thstep.org> or call (518) 434-1703.



Emmanuel



Women are invited to meet for lunch at Diner Time restaurant on **Thursday, November 7** at 11:45 a.m. If

you plan to attend, please contact Pat Hunziker or Betty Mallory so that adequate seating can be arranged. We hope to see you there!

Emmanuel Men, We'll lunch too!



We will meet the same day, same place as the women – **November 7**. If you are coming, please let Bob Hunziker or Bob Green know so we can reserve a seat for you.

Notice of Meetings:

Executive Business Team Meeting:

November 4, 6:15 pm
in the church parlor

Executive Brainstorming Team:

November 17, following worship



Shelter Dinners Resume

During the winter months, Emmanuel supports both the Emergency Overflow Shelter at First Lutheran Church and the Shelter at Interfaith

Partnership for the Homeless by occasionally providing home cooked meals for their guests.

On **November 15**, we will deliver a warming supper of soup and bread to the Emergency Overflow Shelter. Can you help by preparing a pot of soup that will serve ten people? Karen Kendall is organizing this effort so please let her know. Guests are always grateful for these special meals.



Pastor Kathy's e-mail has changed. If you have been sending messages to her old e-mail, she has continued to receive them, through the magic of automatic electronic forwarding. The old email account will soon be closed and then your important messages might be lost. Pastor Kathy wants to hear from you! Please note her new address and remove the old one from your contacts. The new address is

pastorkathy@emmanuelalbany.org

Friday Night Lights

**November
8 & 22
5:30 - 7:30 pm**

(second & fourth Fridays of month)

Light supper (provided)

Light activities (for adults and children)

Light from the Word (exploring together)

Lights out!! (7:30)

This is an opportunity for **multigenerational fellowship, learning and sharing**; a chance to invite friends & neighbors to experience Christian community. Bring a friend and try it out!



**Deadline for December
MOSAIC ~ Nov. 18**

Remember the Food Pantry...

The Food Pantry will include special food items as part of the groceries offered to guests during the holiday season. To that end, Emmanuel is asked to provide *cake mixes and frosting*. You may place them in the designated basket in the sanctuary.

Happy Birthday...

November



Judith Henningson	8 th
Jon Stroebel	13 th
Heather LaBarge	14 th
Tajier Ford	20 th
Pat Campbell	22 nd

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



Church Office Closed:

**November 11
November 27 & 28**



Emmanuel Baptist Church
275 State St.
Albany, NY 12210

