

THE MOSAIC

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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
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Pastoral Ponderings



When I was a child, the extended Donley family always gathered for Thanksgiving in October because my grandparents went to Florida for the winter and they left on November 1. My Uncle Eddie and Aunt Joyce lived on the farm next door to my grandparents, so the Donleys divided themselves between the two houses for the weekend. My grandfather and then grandmother died, but Donleys continued to gather at Uncle Eddie and Aunt Joyce's house for several years, moving to the weekend that everyone else celebrates Thanksgiving. My cousin Julie started pitching in to help with the hosting. After Aunt Joyce died and Uncle Eddie's Parkinson's got worse, Julie started hosting at her own house in a different part of the state. This year, Uncle Eddie went to Arizona in October, because the dry air is easier on his lungs. Julie and her family spent Thanksgiving and Christmas there. The tradition evolved to meet the needs and circumstances of the current generation.

My brother and my parents always come to my house at Christmas because I have to be at church on Christmas Eve. This year, for the first time in decades, we all met at my parent's home. As a bonus, we got together with a few other Donleys who live a couple of hours away. We even talked with Uncle Eddie and cousin Julie in Arizona via Facetime. I am starkly aware of the ways the family leadership has passed from the grandparents to the parents and now to my generation. The traditions continue to evolve as the needs of the Donleys change.

On Pledge Sunday in November, there was a remarkable intergenerational conversation at Emmanuel. It started with a child's question about the box on the communion table that would receive pledges. In answering that question, the grandparent wondered out loud about why we give offerings as part of worship and what the church does with it. The child's answer was that we give money so that Emmanuel "won't become a red X church." He sees the Red X's on lots of buildings on the way to church every Sunday. A Red X indicates the building is vacant and unsafe. There is so much truth in this child's statement. We invest our money, and our time and energy so that our faith community will remain vital.

We begin 2020 with an awareness that Emmanuel continues to live into an intentional experiment. It will be our second year with an evolving governance structure. I'm looking forward to the work of the Vision Committee, a group of volunteers with a high level of commitment to prayer and study and discernment on the ways that our approach to faith and communal life needs to change. Just as my family and yours have adapted, the church must change to meet the needs and circumstances of the current and future generations, because in the words of one of our youngest members, "we don't want to become a Red X church."

Blessings,

Kathy



Our Advent/Christmas worship series “Heaven and Nature Sing: 300 Years of Joy to the World” was largely brought to us by members of the worship design team – Karen Green, Becca Leet, Edith Leet, Marilyn Malone, Tony Malone, and Hannah Scheu. If you particularly appreciated an element, please share your gratitude with them. If you have ideas for themes or new elements to include in Advent 2020, please share them with Pastor Kathy now while they are fresh in your mind. We also want to say a special thank you to the people who brought the Advent wreath to life each Sunday: Silas Klope, Becca Leet, Elisabeth Scheu, Hannah Scheu, Cassandra Paul and Samantha Paul.

**Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Interfaith Memorial Service
January 15
7:00 pm
Macedonia Baptist Church
(26 Wilson Ave., Colonie)**



Speaker: The Reverend Emily McNeill, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, Executive of the Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State, and a leader in the Poor People’s Campaign



Lent 2020 – Coming Soon

The season of Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 26 and culminate on Easter, April 12 . The Lenten Worship Design Team is forming now and will meet in mid-to-late January. If you have not been part of a worship design team previously, please consider participating. Input from across the diversity of our congregation makes our worship experiences rich. If you are willing to serve, please sign up in fellowship hall or contact Pastor Kathy before January 12.

Who Are You?

Epiphany Worship Series
January 5 – February 23



**The LORD called me before I was born,
while I was in my mother's womb God named me. - Isaiah 49:1**

The beginning of a new calendar year is a time when we often reassess direction and ask questions yet again about who we are and where we are going in life. We make resolutions, we sign up at the gym (again), we vow to be better people. This year we will take a deep journey into the question, “Who Are You?”. The series comes at the start of a year in which we as a congregation anticipate a deep journey into questions of our identity as a faith community living into God’s future. Join us on a journey of discovery and transformation.

January 5

Follow Your Star

Isaiah 60:1-6

Matthew 2:1-12

February 9

Live with Integrity

Isaiah 58:1-9

Matthew 5:13-20

January 12

Connect With Your Belovedness

Isaiah 42:1-9

Matthew 3:13-17

February 16

Create Right Relationships

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Matthew 5:21-37

January 19

Know Your Name

Isaiah 49:1-7

John 1:29-42

February 23

Go Beyond

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

Matthew 5:38-48

January 26

Claim Your Vocation

Isaiah 9:1-4

Matthew 4:12-23

**Understanding yourself
is a continuous journey
of discovery.**

From Service to Others...

Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering to be Received

Honoring the Service of God's Servants

For forty-plus years, American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) has acknowledged the devotion of those who have so faithfully answered their call to serve God through RMMO. This offering supports ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses who have devoted 15 years or more to ABCUSA. The funds provide emergency assistance in times of crisis as well as "Thank You" checks to those who are eligible.

We will receive the RMMO on Sundays, January 19 & 26. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this offering. Envelopes will be provided for your convenience.



You're Invited...

Saturday, February 1

4:00 pm, Emmanuel Baptist Church

The FOCUS community is invited to gather for dinner and a program presented by the Rev. Ray Schellinger, Global Consultant for Immigrants & Refugees, ABC International Ministries. The presentation will focus on refugees and displaced people particularly at Mexico's border.

A light dinner will be provided.

RSVP to the church office, (518) 465-5161 by Monday, January 27

FOCUS Annual Worship
February 2, 10 am at Trinity UMC
also that day...

Empty Bowls Fundraiser
at Delmar Reformed Church
12:00 to 2:30 pm

***Choose a bowl to keep and enjoy gourmet
soups, breads and dessert***

\$25 per person

For reservations call 443-0460



***Remember the
Food Pantry...***

Shampoo



Ladies Lunch

You are invited to meet for lunch at Diner Time in Latham on **Thursday, January 9** 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 – **same place, same day, same time!** If you are coming, please let Bob Hunziker or Bob Green know so we can reserve a seat for you.

Notice of Meetings:

“Visioning Team”:

January 19, after worship

Annual Meeting:

January 26

Sunday School Teachers:

Monday, January 27

7:00 at Emmanuel

(Details to follow)



If you have not submitted your Annual Report, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you!



Dinner to be Provided to Shelter

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 during winter months.

On **January 24**, we will deliver a warming supper of chili and corn bread to the Emergency Overflow Shelter. Beginning this month, we are invited to not only deliver the food, but also to stay and serve the meal to shelter guests. Can you help by preparing a pot of chili that will serve ten people? Would you like to meet the neighbors we serve? Karen Kendall is organizing this effort so please let her know how you wish to support this ministry. Guests and the Shelter staff are always grateful for these special meals and interactions.



Be sure to pick up a copy of the new church directory.

And... Check the bulletin board for holiday greetings from pastors Lois Wolff and Roy and Cheryl Donkin.



January 10 & 24

5:30 - 7:30

Light supper (provided)

Light activities

(for adults and children)

Light from the Word (exploring)

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 join the fun!



Deadline for February MOSAIC ~ Jan. 18

Happy Birthday...

Ellen Corcoran
Kathy Donley
Michael Clement
Rosemary Koonce
Monica Scheerer
Lucas Silverman
Jean Burton
Samuel Koonce
Chelah Collins
Erica Edwards
Hunter Spann
Gretchen Scheu
Veronica Torian
Sa Kler Moo



3rd
4th
11th
14th
15th
15th
21st
24th
25th
25th
25th
26th
28th
30th



**Church Office Closed:
January 1 & 20**

Emmanuel Baptist Church
275 State St.
Albany, NY 12210

