

THE MOSAIC

Published monthly by
EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

275 STATE STREET
ALBANY NY 12210

Office: (518) 465-5161

emmanuelalbany@juno.com

February 2020

Volume XXXVII No. 2

Pastoral Ponderings

Someone suggested tents. The idea was that we could set up tents -- as a visible reminder about the migrants who are living in them, as a reminder that immigration proceedings are happening in tents in border cities with judges beaming in via satellite from miles and miles away. We could set up tents as a back-drop for our action, which would probably involve signs and a press conference to get our message out. Then someone had the bright idea that we could sleep in the tents. We could choose to spend the night in the tents as a way of embodying our concern for those who have to do so. It wasn't my idea, but I liked it. I liked the symbolism, the expression of solidarity. In theological terms, it was "incarnational". John 1:14 says "And the Word became flesh and lived among us". The Greek word translated *lived* literally means *pitched tent* so we could read it "And the Word became flesh and pitched tent among us." The suggestion of using tents pulled together a whole lot of things and I liked it. I tried not to think about the fact that we would be doing this in January.



The impact was much more incarnational (in the sense of bodily) than I expected. We set up in Academy Park on a Sunday afternoon. It was unseasonably warm. In fact, it was actually warmer in Albany than in Brownsville on that January day. Because Sunday mornings are kind of busy for me, I didn't arrive until mid-afternoon, right about the time the weather turned cold. I was soon grateful for the extra layers I had worn, including my long winter coat, which I had not needed earlier. The city had denied our request to spend the night in Academy Park, but we were still there in the cold and dark until 10 p.m. We did have a permit for a fire. I quickly named Victor, our fire-builder, as the MVP of the event. I have never been so grateful for warmth and light. Moving just a few feet away quickly put me back into the cold. I stayed as close as possible, even though the wind often blew the smoke directly into my face, leading to coughing fits and watering eyes. I wondered out loud about people experiencing homelessness in our city and how very hard it must be to stay warm.



We had to douse the fire to help take down the tents and pack all the gear into various vehicles before our permit expired. My cold fingers were not very nimble at untying cords and pulling up stakes. As soon as that was done, I went home, took a hot shower and crawled into bed for the next 6 hours. Despite flannel sheets and a heated house, I never felt warm all night. The next day, I spent two more hours demonstrating outside. It was still cold, but at least it was sunny. Going home again, I expected to sleep just a little bit. I had a long to-do list for my day off, but I slept until 6:00 p.m.!

continued...

This solidarity/incarnational experience reinforced stuff I already knew, but in a way I'm less prone to forget. Even though I'm relatively healthy, this brief exposure to the cold knocked me for a loop. On Monday, I thought I was coming down with something. My back hurt, despite the fact that I wore my brace the whole time. My head hurt. I had a catalog of aches and pains. I was miserable. (Another woman in our group, a cyclist who is in great physical shape, had a similar experience with being out of commission for the next 24 hours.) I had a warm place to retreat to, with electricity and running water. To say that I understand what people in the tent cities are going through would be ridiculous. To say that my body is now more sensitive to their suffering would be more accurate. How do they cope? They have no hot or cold running water. Most of them came from homes in the tropics, which they left in the heat of summer. They probably don't own winter coats or long underwear. They are sleeping outdoors in freezing temperatures. How do they ever get warm? What if they get sick? How will they ever get well?

I basically camped out with friends for parts of two days. We were safe, full, free to leave whenever we wanted, and I was ready for it to end.

It wasn't my idea, but I'm grateful for what it taught me. It wasn't my idea to take this one step further and join the witnesses in Brownsville, Texas and Matamoros, Mexico in March, but I feel compelled by the Spirit to do so. Watch for more on that in the next newsletter.

Blessings,
Kathy



Roll Down Justice! **Ash Wednesday, February 26 through Easter Sunday, April 12**

*But let justice roll down like waters, and
righteousness
like an ever-flowing stream.
- Amos 5:24*

Lent, the season of forty days before Easter, is a time of reminding ourselves who we are called to be in this world. Our Lenten series is inspired by Amos, a prophet whose message is that God calls us to let "justice roll down like waters." Worship without justice is not acceptable, rather our songs and prayers must move us to action on behalf of the oppressed. In a time of hatred, division, violence and humanitarian crises, we will remember the heart of the Gospel – God's reconciling love for all. The social justice songs of Mark Miller (known to us because he wrote "Draw the Circle Wide") and Ken Medema (known to us because he wrote "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying") will undergird our weekly worship.



Wednesday, February 26, 6:00 p.m.
Service of Prayer and Contemplation
ashes available...soup & bread supper

Can you provide soup or bread? Look for the sign up sheet and let us know.

FOCUS NEWS...



You're Invited...

Saturday, February 1

4:00 pm, Emmanuel Baptist Church

The 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, Trinity UMC
The Rev. Ray Schellinger, preaching
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



\$1 DONATION TO FOCUS CHURCHES OF ALBANY
WHEN YOU BUY A REUSABLE HANNAFORD SHOPPING BAG

*5 Maple Road, Voorheesville,
96 Wolf Road, Windsor Plaza, Colonie,
900 Central Avenue, Albany*



THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY



BOWLING FOR BEDS 2020

**BOWL A THON TO BENEFIT EMERGENCY HOMELESS SHELTER All Ages Welcome:
Children, Youth, Adults
SATURDAY—FEBRUARY 8, 2020
12:30—4:30 P.M. Del Lanes 4
Bethlehem Court in Delmar**

If you would like to receive a registration packet for your group, please contact Rev. Sandy Damhof, Protestant Campus Ministry, Interfaith Center at University at Albany—CC#346, 1400 Washington Ave. Albany, NY 12222. You may also call or email your request to Email: sdamhof@albany.edu Phone: 518-442-4491. We need to hear from you NO LATER THAN JANUARY 11 TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE - ROOM IS LIMITED SO ACT NOW!

**Ecumenical Advocacy Day
February 12, 9:30 am to 4:00
pm**



**New York State
COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

**NEW POLITICS, NEW ACTION,
NEW BUDGET,
NEW HOPE FOR ALL OF NEW YORK**

Join people of faith across New York State as we connect our faith to issues of social justice and building a more equitable society. The day begins with spiritual grounding, followed by basic advocacy training, workshops on issues including care for creation, immigration, criminal justice reform and poverty alleviation, and then finally visits to the offices of our elected officials.

The cost is \$30, which includes lunch and refreshments. Questions? Contact the Reverend Peter Cook, Executive Director, New York State Council of Churches at pcook@nyscoc.org or 508-380-8289. Register at <https://nyscoc.org/> or through the New York Council of Churches Facebook page.

**Remember the
Food Pantry...**

feminine hygiene products



**Church Office Closed:
February 17**



Notice of Meetings:

“Visioning Team”:

February 9, 6-8 pm
February 23 6-8 pm

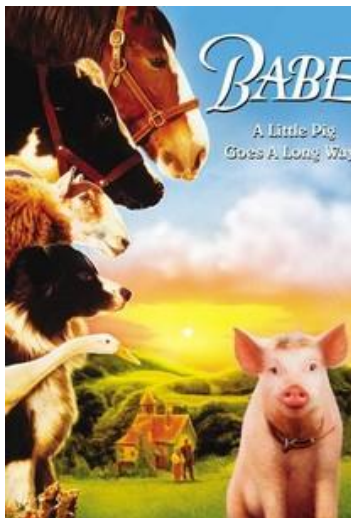


Dinner to be Provided to Shelter

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 **February 16**, we will deliver baked ziti and salad to the Interfaith Shelter. Can you help by preparing ziti or a salad to serve 10 people? Karen Kendall is organizing this effort so please let her know how you will support this ministry. Guests and the Shelter staff are always grateful for these special meals.



Friday Night Lights Intergenerational Movie Night March 13

5:30 Light meal
6:30 showing of *Babe*

A young pig fights convention to become a sheep dog -- or, rather, sheep pig -- in this Australia film. The title refers to the name bestowed on a piglet soon

after his separation from his family, when he finds himself on a strange farm. Confused and sad, Babe is adopted by a friendly dog, Fly, and slowly adjusts to his new home. With Fly's help, and Farmer Hoggett's intuition, Babe embarks on a career in sheepherding with some surprising and spectacular results.

This movie offers a fun way to think about some issues related to our Lenten theme *Roll Down Justice!* We might talk about welcoming newcomers or how to include people (pigs) who have different ideas than we do, or how to respond when other people think we shouldn't do the things we are good at.



February 14 & 28

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 the March
MOSAIC is February 18

Happy Birthday...

Betty Mallory	1 st
Wes Kendall	5 th
Bob Hunziker	6 th
Becca Leet	15 th
David Green	16 th
Tim Bray	18 th
Cassandra Paul	18 th
Samantha Paul	18 th
Gwendolyn Osborne	21 st
Gail Hill	28 th



Church Directory Update

(with apologies for the omissions – *Dorothy*)

Marion Dickinson

9 Tipton Dr.

Loudonville, NY 12211

459-5822

email: meddickinson@aol.com

Karen Green email: kabegr0427@gmail.com

Pat Campbell's new email:

patcampbell275@yahoo.com

Lucy Wong has moved to the Kingsway Nursing Home. She is grateful for visits and cards from Emmanuel Members. Her address is:

Lucy Wong, Room 420

323 Kings Road

Schenectady, NY 12304

Emmanuel Baptist Church
275 State St.
Albany, NY 12210

