

THE MOSAIC

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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

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Pastoral Ponderings

Life is difficult right now. No one is enjoying the upheaval of the pandemic. Everyone is stressed. I tend to think of myself as a realist, with a tendency to see the glass as half empty. And yet, I am surprising myself. I am surprising myself with gratitude. I've discovered that I took a lot for granted -- like the ability to see familiar faces on a regular basis, to go out to dinner, to attend a conference in another city, to hug a friend. It seems that, as the things I took for granted have suddenly been taken away, I have gained a new gratitude for what remains.

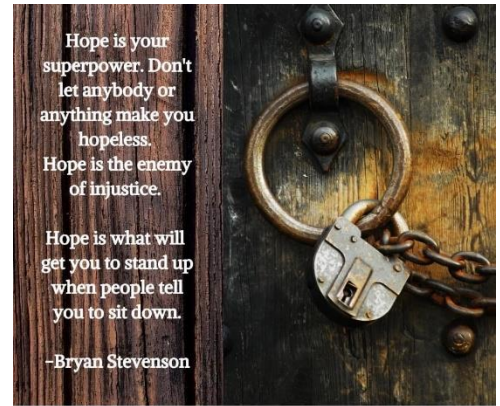
I'm grateful for a life partner who tells me that he enjoys my being home all the time. I'm grateful that our puppy must be exercised every day because it means that we must walk every day. I'm grateful for a faith community that keeps showing up for each other -- in Zoom worship every Sunday, but also in phone calls and caring notes and grocery-store runs. I'm grateful for the hummingbirds and goldfinches at our feeders. I have a gazebo in my backyard. Last summer, I finally got around to making it a comfortable place to work on sermons. I thought I might use it once a week, but that didn't happen with any regularity. This summer, it has become my outdoor office. I spend most mornings there with my books and my laptop and I am newly grateful for something that has been possible, but not fully realized, all along.

I am also hopeful. I am tentatively hopeful about the state of racial justice in our country. I am aware of the huge disparities faced by people of color because of implicit biases and the racism built into all of our systems. The list of names of those wrongfully killed by the police is too long to countenance, but that is just the tip of the visible iceberg. What is less visible, especially to white people, are the daily micro-aggressions and assaults on personal dignity that occur every single day in the lives of people with black and brown skin. As a white, middle-class person I am shielded from that. I do not share those experiences, but I do share outrage that things are as they are. I try to hold onto that outrage and anger and passion for change at all times.

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I try to be realistic, but I am newly hopeful that change is possible. The Black Lives Matter organization was started in 2013 in response to the acquittal of Trayvon Martin’s murderer, George Zimmerman. Seven years later, we see the rise of a global Movement for Black Lives. In recent weeks, we have witnessed protests in major and towns and rural areas across the world. There are visible changes, like *Black Lives Matter* being painted on streets and the renaming of places and the removal of statues which honored racists of the past. Some people in authority appear more willing to hear the charges of racism and to re-examine their practices. Is it enough? Not by a very long shot. But it signals that this might be a moment in which real change can happen and for that I am hopeful. Bryan Stevenson, founder of the Equal Justice Initiative and the author of *Just Mercy* said “Hope is your superpower. . . . Hope is the enemy of injustice. Hope is what will get you to stand up when other people tell you to sit down.” So, I am holding on to hope.



I would love to hear from you. What is surprising you these days? For what are you grateful? How are you exercising your superpower of hope?

Peace,
 Kathy

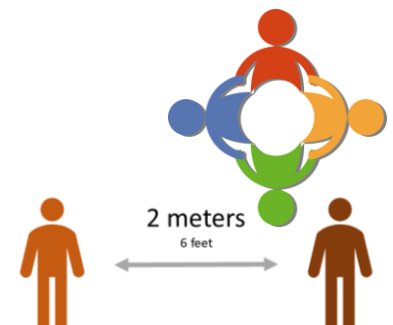
From Caring & Fellowship...

We are going to try some *Specially Spaced Picnics!!!* Each location will host a max. of 10 people, spaced 6’ apart. Below are the details, followed by dates & locations. If you are not available for one or 2 of these, or not comfortable attending, there will be several more in Aug, Sept, & Oct. If you have any questions, you may contact Ellen Corcoran.



- Events are all “BYOF”—bring your own food, including beverages.
- Bring your chair & umbrella if you want shade -- even yards w/ umbrella tables will each only seat 2
- Face mask & hand wipes provided, but you may bring your own.
- Call the host to register! **You MUST pre-schedule!!**
- GOOD WEATHER only! Please note, there are a few rain dates.

Saturday, Jul 4, 11am-3pm	Lahut’s camp near Gloversville (CALL BY JUNE 30; bring suit & towel)
Sunday, July 12, 12-2pm	Michael Clement/Donald Heinz
Sunday, July 19, 12-2pm	Michael/Donald
Sunday, July 19, 12-2pm	Leet’s
Sunday, Aug 9, 1-3pm	Andrea Carver (rain, 8/16)
Sunday, Aug 23, 12-2pm	Green’s (rain, 8/30)



Re-Opening the Church Building

Our Executive Team has continually debated the risks and benefits of re-opening Emmanuel's sanctuary for in-person worship. It's a complex question. New York churches fall into the last category of institutions that are allowed to re-open (phase 4), but expert guidance for re-opening churches has been inconsistent.

The answer has not been determined to the satisfaction of health professionals or our most knowledgeable members. Consequently, our Executive Team is moving cautiously for a return to the sanctuary this fall, at a time to be determined. We will need to define key practices including cleaning, disinfecting, mask use, social distancing, choral activity, microphone use, and group speaking.

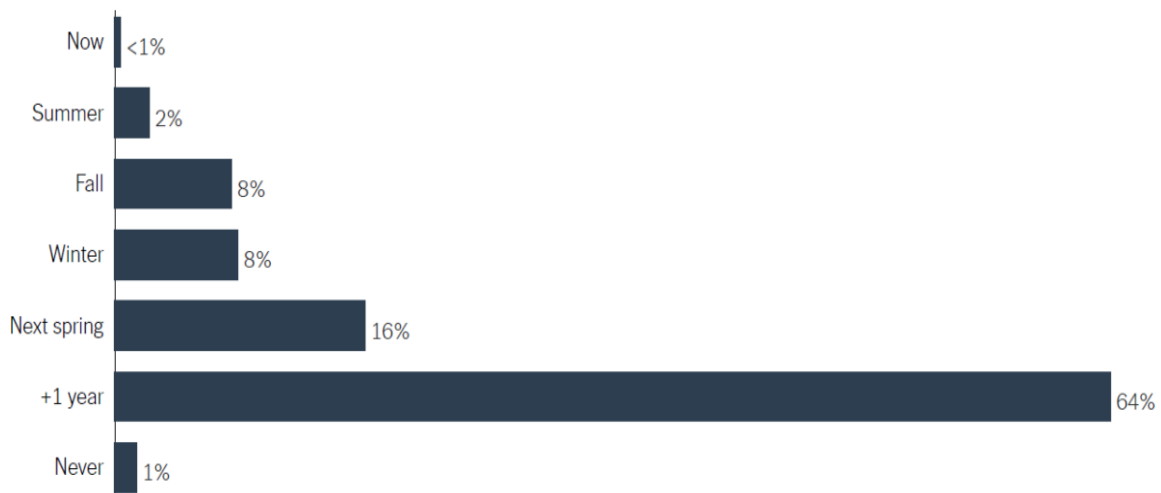
In the coming weeks, our Executive Team will continue to address Emmanuel's timeline of re-opening. We would appreciate your input, especially regarding what it would take to make you feel comfortable returning to our sanctuary and how soon you would like to come back. Please give us your thoughts via emails, telephone calls, or letters to the Church Office or to individual Executive Team members. The Executive Team will keep you posted.

What Do the Experts Say?

Experts are conflicted. Some personal opinions are revealed here in an article entitled, "**When 511 Epidemiologists Expect to Fly, Hug and Do 18 Other Everyday Activities**" noted in the *NY Times* <https://nyti.ms/2AfC7R7> on 6/8/2020. Epidemiologists assess the risk of disease threats for hospitals, public health departments, universities, research, and other institutions. These graphs are not policy, but reveal conflicting opinions among experts.

When do you expect to return to:

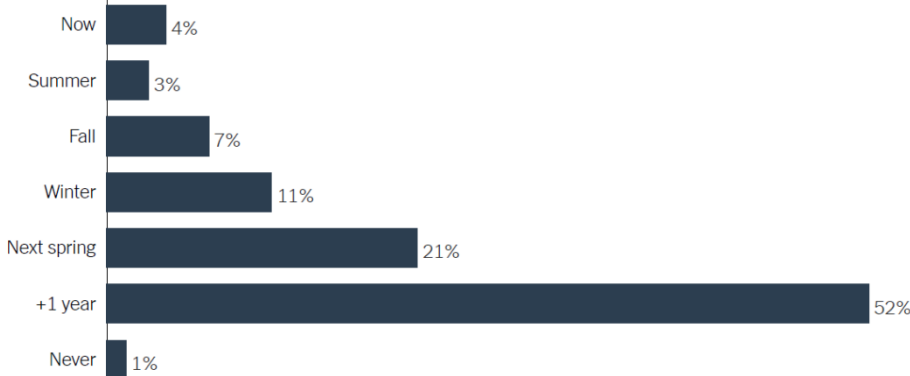
Sporting events, concerts and plays



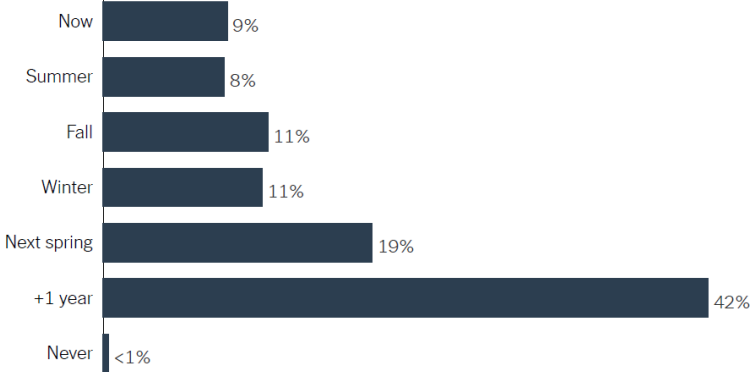
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When do you expect to:

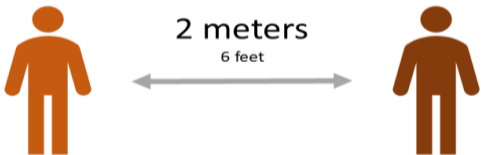
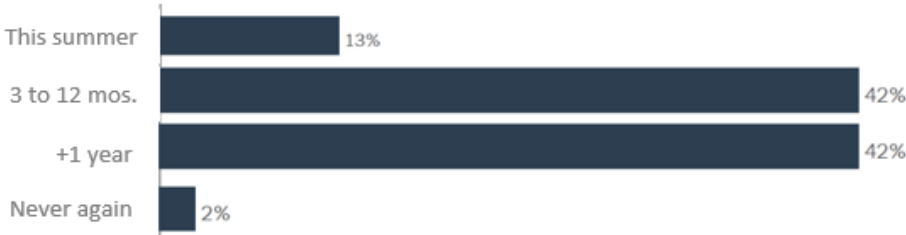
Stop wearing masks:



When do you expect to return to attending Weddings and funerals:



When do you expect to: Attend a church or other religious service:





CAMPING (presented by Vick & Pathfinder Camps)
Summer 2020 – The Year Camp Came to you!

Want to engage with your kids and connect with God this summer? Join in the fun! We are offering 6 weeks of individualized programming for different age groups.

Your Box Purchase Includes:

- At least 10 activities per week including materials – each week is unique, and theme based!
- Twice weekly “sing along” Campfires
- Daily social media challenges
- Additional devotionals and activity ideas for those who want more to do!
- Automatic inclusion in daily chapels and the Friday “Family Fun” Campfire!
- Familiar faces in near and distant places! Our camping veterans will see lots of old friends! Our new friends will meet many new friendly faces!
- We will be visiting Pathfinder and Vick during our 6-week experience!
- **Learn and grow along with us with many hands on, interactive adventures as we all camp out of the box together!**

Prices and Options:

\$40 per week or \$220 for all 6 boxes! A limited edition 2020 Camp Shirt with your choice of a tie dye kit or fabric markers can be added or purchased separately for \$15.

WHAT’S HAPPENING EACH WEEK?

Week 1 (starts July 6th) – ARTS

Grade 1-6 – 2 crafts per day

Grade 7-12 – Record your part for a comedy skit that will be compiled and posted on our social media. Email check-ins will occur throughout the week for feedback on costuming, staging, etc. Watch videos from artistic experts and share your creations with us

Week 2 (starts July 13th) – Mystery/Challenge

Grades 1-6 – a mystery box that will give campers daily riddles, treasure hunts to go on, “I Spy” and other mysterious things!

Grades 7-12 – This challenge box features daily challenges for campers to complete. At the beginning of the week there will be an email correspondence with the campers to set goals for the week that encourage positive habit formation, particularly focused on Spiritual disciplines.

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Week 3 – starts July 20th – Science & Mindfulness

Grades 1- 6 – Science Week. 2 crafts/activities/experiments for each day will be sent along with links to “How To “videos. For some experiments, we will ask campers to share videos of how their experiments turned out.

Grades 7-12 – this week’s box is focused on Mindfulness. The goal is to help campers build listening and reflection skills to help learn from God. This will include journaling guided by questions presented by a qualified adult to help develop these skills and greater self-awareness.

Week 4 –starts July 27th – “Camp in your Backyard”

This week aims to bring Beginners/Discovery/Teen Challenge into one week, so there is one box for this week not separated by grade. Each day there will be a dining hall sing along, activities, and experiences meant to bring the whole family together in the camping experience. Examples include: build your own fort, dress up your parents, fishing.

Week 5 – starts August 3rd – International Week

We have had so many international staff over the years, and this week aims to bring a bit of global culture into your home. Each day will feature international staff talking about their home as well as a snack and craft themed to their home country.

Week 6 – starts August 17th – REPLAY WEEK

The goal is to bring back the best activities from previous weeks. The activities will be determined by camper feedback.


Want to support this vital ministry during this unprecedented time? You can:

[Sponsor a box](#) or boxes to send to a child in need of support

Make a minimum donation of \$25 and receive a handmade candle and magnet as our thanks and reminder to pray for camp!

Emmanuel has scholarships so that everyone can experience camp this summer. Your first week can be as little as \$5! Contact Marilyn Malone (malonehome@aol.com) about scholarships.

For more information including introductory video and registration form go to vpccministries.org

L  **K**...During the month of July, the **children's time during worship** will focus on the story of Esther. Children have received materials to create some props to re-enact the story at home. It is a story of queens and a king, spies, intrigue, and treachery. Join us at Zoom worship on July 12, 19, & 26, especially children! You won't want to miss this.



Our beloved EBC Announce email list is going to retire!

It's served us well for many years, however, the Yahoo Groups system that it runs on has undergone many changes recently and it's time to take the leap to a new platform that will serve us better for the future!

The good news is that your experience of using EBC Announce will be almost identical, we simply have to change the email address that's used.

Our plan is to retire the old EBC Announce **by the end of July**, so before then, you'll need to take just a few simple steps to subscribe to the new list:

1. Visit this site: <https://groups.io/g/ebc-announce/join>
2. Enter your email address
3. Click the green Confirm Email Address button:

Confirm Email Address

When you click this button we will send you an email to confirm your email address.

4. Shortly, you will receive an email to confirm your email address and activate your membership. Look for a message from **Groups.io** with the subject: "[**ebc-announce**] **Confirm your...email address**".
5. All you need to do is to reply to that email, and your subscription will be complete.
OPTIONAL: You can follow the instructions in the email to create an account. This is optional, but it will allow you to use some of the other functionality that comes with the group.

Going forward, you'll just need to make sure that when you want to send to EBC Announce, you use the new email address: ebc-announce@groups.io

If you have any issues or questions, please contact Curtis Klope curtis.klope@gmail.com or Ruth Pushee ruthpushee@aol.com

Deadline for the August MOSAIC is July 18



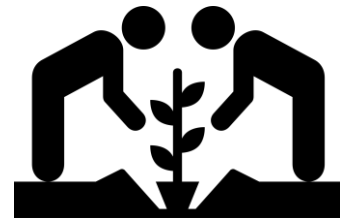
**Remember the
Food Pantry... Shampoo**



The three newly identified priorities of FOCUS are immigration, housing and anti-racism work. The plan is that each of these priorities will receive the attention of a dedicated task force composed of members from across our covenant churches. In March, the Immigration Task Force was scheduled to report to the Board of Directors and then New York went on Pause. No other task forces have been formed since that time. However, at their June meeting, following a motion by Pastor Kathy, the FOCUS Board of Directors unanimously adopted this statement:

The FOCUS Churches of Albany affirms without equivocation the statement that “Black Lives Matter.” We proclaim that all people are made in the image of God and are of inherent value. In our desire to dismantle systemic racism, we support the Black Lives Matter movement in its vigorous pursuit of freedom, equality and justice for Black people.

Thanks to a partnership with Soul Fire Farm, a *BIPOC-focused farm initiative in Albany, FOCUS has acquired a garden plot to grow produce for the pantry. The plot is located adjacent to Normanskill Creek at Normanskill Farm off Delaware Avenue. It is part of a larger garden run by Radix Environmental Center, and is established on Albany property.



The plot was planted by Becca Leet and three volunteers recruited by Soul Fire. We are growing tomatoes, kale, lettuce, onions, peppers, thyme, parsley, and basil. Harvesting should begin in July. Volunteers are sought to help with maintaining it (especially weeding) and harvesting when things are ready to be picked. To volunteer, please contact Belinda Quaye, FOCUS Volunteer Coordinator, at 518-443-0460



*BIPOC = Black, Indigenous, and People of Color



FOCUS Worship July 5 at 10:00 a.m.

Hosted by Delmar Reformed Church

Don't miss the first-ever summer FOCUS Worship in cyberspace. On July 5, Delmar Reformed Church will lead worship via their YouTube Channel. To join in, simply go to this link <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv7ZyRBcWPo8-hAyBwkStDg/videos> on your computer or tablet or smart phone.

A worship bulletin will be posted by Friday at www.drchurch.org There will also be a link to that bulletin in the information attached to the YouTube video. Communion will not be part of this service.

The feed will be "live" starting at about 9:50 a.m. with worship beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Note: Sometimes the stream gets a bit bogged down in buffering and seems choppy.

Many have resolved the problem by simply pressing pause for two minutes, and then resuming the stream about two minutes delayed. The service is not pre-recorded. It will be happening in real time as you engage from your home.

Other FOCUS Services are scheduled as follows:

August 2 – First Church in Albany hosting at 10:00 a.m. (Drive-in service)

September 7 – Westminster Presbyterian Church hosting at 10:00 a.m.
(Zoom link will be provided.)

Happy Birthday...



Neeqa Noor graduated from University at Albany, SUNY with bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences. She will be attending Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences PA program.

Arianna Paul graduated from the College of St. Rose with a bachelor's degree in Communications – Public Relations and Advertising. She begins a fellowship in Troy in the fall.

Rachel Scott completed her bachelor's degree in Social Work at UAlbany in May. She will begin graduate work in the UAlbany School of Social Welfare in the fall.

Dr. Maria Townes Covington completed her residency in Pediatric Medicine in Springfield, MA and is returning to the Capital Region this month.

MaKayla Smith	1 st
Amanda Gibson	4 th
Kevin Cole	6 th
Bessie Gibson	10 th
Nancy Horan	11 th
Tracy Collins	14 th
Andrea Carver	14 th
Kendra Lahut	14 th
Silas Klope	20 th
Rebecca Malone	21 st
Jim Wilkerson	23 rd
Paw E Kler	24 th
Dah Blut Soe	24 th
Esther Moore	26 th
Curtis Klope	26 th
Elaine Clark	29 th
Amber Collins	31 st

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



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