

THE MOSAIC

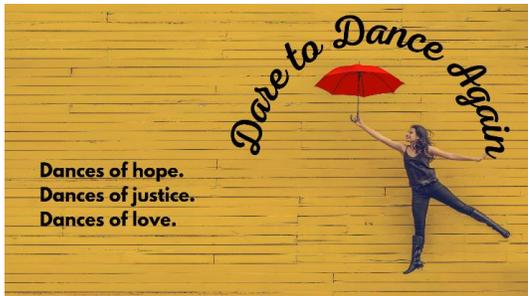
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Eastertide

“Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.”

— *Psalm 30:5b*

As Easter people, we are called to dance our dances of freedom for all the world to see—even and perhaps especially in times of great difficulty. Dances of hope. Dances of justice. Dances of love. During this season, post-resurrection stories point to the joy of living in the beloved community and extending that fellowship through our witness as we dare to dance again. As the song says,

*“Promise me that you’ll give faith a fighting chance,
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance.
I hope you dance. . . I hope you dance . . .”*

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| April 4
Easter | The Dance of Resurrection
Isaiah 25:6-9, Mark 16:1-8 |
| April 11 | With Great Power: Dancing Together
John 20:19-31, I John 1:1-2:2 |
| April 18 | While In Their Joy: Dancing Sure
Luke 24:36b-48, I John 3:1-7 |
| April 25 | Shared Worship with Westminster Presbyterian
In celebration of Earth Day |
| May 2 | From You Comes My Praise: Guide My Steps
Acts 8:26-40, John 15:1-8 |
| May 9 | Who Can Withhold? Break Forth!
Psalm 98, Acts 10:44-48 |
| May 16 | Gone Up with a Shout: Clap Your Hands
Psalm 47, Luke 24:44-53 |
| May 23
Pentecost | Spirit Poured Out: Dare to Dance Again
Ezekiel 37:1-14, Acts 2:1-21 |





Pastoral Ponderings

On Palm Sunday 2020, we held our third Zoom worship service. Everything was new and tentative. The pandemic lockdown had disrupted life as we knew it. Fear of the unknown was energetic – it kept us awake at night and fueled spring-cleaning and home improvement projects left undone for years. The fear was powerful, but so was hope.

We hoped that this would be over soon. Church leaders hoped for a quick return to sanctuaries. Many anticipated delaying Easter celebrations by just a few weeks. Others thought it might be a Pentecost celebration which would see the congregation back together in-person. They were wrong about the timing, but they were right to hope. Faith, hope and love have seen us through the last year. Having endured this long, we continue to hope. We rejoice in the development of a vaccine arriving first to protect the oldest and most vulnerable among us. We rejoice as it is distributed to an ever-widening circle, and as we hear of trials for a child-safe version. We rejoice in the coming of spring, a reminder of the cycles of our lives and of the power of resurrection. I am encouraged by these words from Jan Richardson:

Rough Translations

Par' elpida ep' elpidi. — Romans 4.18, Greek New Testament
(Literally, "Against hope with hope.")

Hope nonetheless.
Hope despite.
Hope regardless.
Hope still.

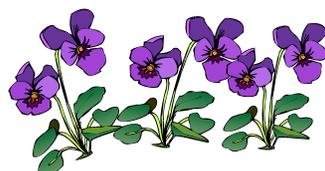
Hope where we had ceased to hope.
Hope amid what threatens hope.
Hope with those who feed our hope.
Hope beyond what we had hoped.

Hope that draws us past our limits.
Hope that defies expectations.
Hope that questions what we have known.
Hope that makes a way where there is none.

Hope that takes us past our fear.
Hope that calls us into life.
Hope that holds us beyond death.
Hope that blesses those to come.

(from *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*)

Do not lose heart friends,
Kathy



CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



John U. Miller Memorial CROP HUNGER WALK

The Albany CROP Hunger Walk is scheduled for Sunday, May 2. Again this year, due to the pandemic, it will be a virtual event. Walkers can walk wherever they choose that afternoon or any other day that is convenient, to raise funds to help support Church World Services global hunger fighting programs and local food pantries and soup kitchens.

The need is especially great, given the continuing pandemic. 25% of funds raised are used for local hunger programs, and 75% for Church World Service programs throughout the world. Last year the Albany walk was 6th in the nation, raising just under \$91,000.

I have registered the Emmanuel team on the CROP Walk website. If you plan to walk, you can register for the walk online, and encourage supporters to donate online.

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/emmanuel-baptist-church-albany>

I will also provide you with an envelope for donations (convert cash to check, all checks made out to CWS/CROP) and t-shirts will be available as usual. Funds are due no later than the first week of June.



Again this year, there will be a virtual opening ceremony on May 2 at 1:30 via zoom. If you have any questions, email me (nancyhoran40@gmail.com) or call me (518) 605-5763.

-- Nancy Horan



Capital Area Council of Churches Spring Appeal

These last twelve months have been a challenge for CACC as they have been for everyone. Finding ways to keep our Emergency Homeless Shelter open 24/7 and an additional two months, exemplifies those challenges. Moving to virtual meetings, replacing our annual awards banquet with a booklet and providing a virtual MLK Celebration kept the Council busy. In a recent letter to our supporters, Margaret Danes, Board President, highlighted our recent successes. You can read Margaret's letter at the Council of Churches website. CACC relies heavily on support from congregations and individuals. Please consider donating to CACC this year.





Spring is here, so... We are going to have a campfire

🔥 with stories

🔥 and activities

🔥 and masked singing

🔥 and some s'mores!

WHEN:

Friday, April 9, 6:30-8:00

WHERE: Marilyn & Tony Malone's backyard

17 Fireside Lane, Latham

BRING:

A blanket for your family, chairs if accompanying adults need them

A mask - everyone must wear one

Your energy and excitement!

COST: Nothing, of course.

But you must make a reservation by sending an **email**
to malonehome@aol.com. (Or you can text Marilyn, 518-312-8761)

We have a big yard, but all this social distancing requires planning. We assume the weather will be beautiful, but will let you know if plans need to change.

I'm practicing my camp songs now, and Tony is dreaming up more stories! We look forward to seeing many of our Bible Club kids and any adults who want to join in!



From Property & Financial Management

Emmanuel recently hired a building manager to coordinate maintenance and address repairs in our building. Patrick Burns started mid March and quickly got up to speed on the church's heating system, the alarm system, as well as meeting the staff and tenants.

Pat comes to Emmanuel with a wealth of experience in renovating and selling residential buildings and working with contractors and local building departments. In earlier years he worked for New York State Department of Tax and Finance, Office of Real Property Tax Services. Pat has a sharp eye for noticing needed repairs before they blossom into large costly projects. So if you see Pat's friendly face in the building, welcome him and introduce yourself. (JB)





American Baptists gather as a national body every two years. **The Biennial planned for June 24-26, 2021 is a virtual event.** Join one of the most diverse Baptist denominations as we *imagine* new possibilities and celebrate together the love of Christ and the joy of being a part of American Baptist Churches USA. The event will include live workshops, worship as well as a library of pre-recorded sessions and a virtual exhibit hall.

Registration is discounted by \$25 through March 31. Some scholarship help will be available from Emmanuel. Contact Marilyn Malone or Judy Henningson if you plan to attend. Speaker biographies, workshop topics and other details available at www.AmericanBaptists2021.com



Position Available: Breakfast Program Coordinator

(posted March 19, 2021)

FOCUS Churches of Albany is a nonprofit, faith based organization operating a food pantry and a breakfast program for individuals who are homeless and/or in need of food in downtown Albany.

FOCUS is seeking to fill the part time position of **Breakfast Program Coordinator**. The Coordinator's responsibility is to provide leadership and oversight of the program which provides hot breakfasts and bag lunches to as many as 140 individuals three days per week. The Coordinator will work with volunteers and staff to ensure the smooth operations of meal preparation and distribution (done by volunteers) and the safety and well-being of guests, volunteers and staff.

This position will require a range of 10-15 hours per week, (typically: Mondays 9:30am to 12 Noon; Tuesdays and Wednesdays 6:00am to 10:00am)

Supervisory experience is required. Experience in working with people who are low-income and food insecure is preferred. This is a great part-time position for someone who enjoys working in the mornings.

Compensation is \$18 to \$20 per hour, depending on experience.

Job Type: Part-time

COVID-19 considerations: We follow strict COVID-19 safety protocols to maintain safety and public health for all staff, guests and volunteers.

This position is posted on Indeed.



FOCUS Anti-Racism Task Force

Why: Three years ago, the leadership of FOCUS began an intentional discernment of how to continue strengthening the bonds of our churches around common concerns and passions. Over the course of a year-long process concluding in 2019, four priorities were identified: food insecurity, immigration, housing, and anti-racism ministries. Already invested in food insecurity ministries, and having convened an immigration task force in 2019 that concluded its work, we are now launching an Anti-Racism Task Force. This launch was delayed a full year as all of our congregations refocused ministry during the pandemic.

What: The group will be made up of interested people from across our congregations, brought together for this purpose. Using resources that each of us are aware of, or investigate, the group will be asked to explore the ways in which FOCUS may take a new step in anti-racism ministry. Hearing from groups working in this area in our region, speaking to experts, and engaging in research together may be a part of the work.

When: The group will launch in June of this year. It will engage in learning together in the ways it decides are most relevant and helpful, in order to report back to the board in late 2021, or very early 2022. It is hoped the task force will offer recommendations on the next step(s) in our mutual exploration and work in anti-racism ministries for FOCUS.

How to be involved: The FOCUS Anti-Racism Task Force is now forming. An Administrator/Convener will be appointed by the Board at their May meeting. If you would like to be a part of the learning, exploration, and discussion, please email or mail the following information to: Rev. Chris Vande Bunte cvandebunte@drchurch.org
386 Delaware Ave, Delmar, NY 12054

I am interested in (check all that apply):

Anti-Racism Task Force (June to late 2021)

Housing Task Force (Launching early to mid 2022)

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Home Congregation: _____

You will hear from the appointed Administrator in late May about next steps.



Happy Birthday...

Anthony Malone
Geoffrey Bray
Andrew Malone
Matthew Normile
Chris LaBarge
Ian Leet
Tenosha Ford
Hannah Scheu
Lillian Matejczak
Alyce Malone
Evie Garner
Jonathan Bray
Karen Green



5th
6th
6th
8th
11th
13th
16th
18th
20th
21st
22nd
23rd
27th

Deadline for May MOSAIC:
April 18



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

Emmanuel Baptist Church
275 State St.
Albany, NY 12210

