

THE MOSAIC

Published monthly by
EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
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May 2021

Volume XXXVIII No. 5



Pastoral Ponderings

A year ago, this newsletter contained a mini-tutorial on Zoom controls as well as some pointers on Zoom etiquette. What a long way we have come in the last 12 months!

The changes to our worship gatherings in March 2020 were abrupt. One Sunday, we were in the sanctuary; seven days later, we saw each other only on the Zoom screen, if at all. Other changes were gradual. Some of us began as audio-only participants and eased our way into full video. At the start, we attempted to sing together. Over time, we learned to mute ourselves and sing together to an instrumental accompaniment. A few months down the road, the choir took it upon themselves to record a vocal accompaniment. For more than a year now, we have engaged with each other across digital space in creative ways. We have indeed come a long way.

Now it appears that we may emerge from that pattern into something that is not a return to the old way, but not a continuation of the same either. I suspect that this will be similar to our experience at the start of the pandemic. Some changes will happen all at once. Others will unfold gradually.

It all begins on May 23 when we will launch hybrid worship. Hybrid worship means that some of us will gather in the sanctuary while, simultaneously, others continue to gather on Zoom. Many aspects will appear familiar. The Emmanuel building has not changed in our absence. Some of us may have changed, but I expect we will still recognize each other, despite the masks being worn by those in the sanctuary. And yet, there is a sense in which we will all be newcomers. We are all novices at living in a post-pandemic world, or, more accurately, in the post-pandemic world that we hope is on its way.

continued...

Our behaviors and attitudes have changed. Distanced in many ways over the last year, we will have to find ways to renew relationships and be together. We are all newcomers, bearing our own personalities, strengths and foibles. Some of us are starving for companionship. We want to feast on conversation and stories and catching up. Others have learned well the caution of Covid protocols. We will not come rushing back to the sanctuary for a while yet. Perhaps some of us are hesitant, willing to show up in person only if we can stay near the edge. Some of us have attended every Zoom service offered; some have not ever attended one. And the few who have joined us in the last year have not yet had the opportunity to make acquaintances in person.

Before the pandemic, newcomers to worship consistently told me about your gifts of hospitality. They praised your ability to receive and welcome, to accept each person as they were. I invite us to draw deeply on that strength in the coming weeks. Let us listen for and welcome and receive the gifts of every person, as if all are new to the scene, because we will be. Let us remember that much joy and grief has remained unshared and we will need to tell our stories gradually. Let us recognize that our congregation has never stopped seeking God's will for us. Even now, especially now, we are looking for the next adventure in our life together, anticipating new ways to serve, ways that are obedient and joyful and sustainable.

Beloved ones, let us receive the stranger with grace, extending to all the compassionate welcome we ourselves hope to receive, for we are all newcomers now.

Peace,
Kathy



If you joined worship this past Sunday you learned that Emmanuel has been awarded a \$10,000 grant through New York State Landmark Conservancy. This is very exciting and helps us in our efforts to stabilize the tower roof.

We have signed a contract with Kalam Company out of New York City for this project and work will begin by the end of May.

Also, In the midst of this activity, as I mentioned a few weeks ago, an angel has stepped forward and offered to match donations to the building fund up to \$10,000. Emmanuel's generosity is astounding!

If you plan to make a donation to this effort, this is the time to do so. Donations or pledges for this special match must reach Ruth Pushee by the end of May, ruthpushee@aol.com. Contribution can be made by check or online. God Bless. (JB)

Where two or more are gathered . . . *In-person @ Emmanuel's sanctuary*

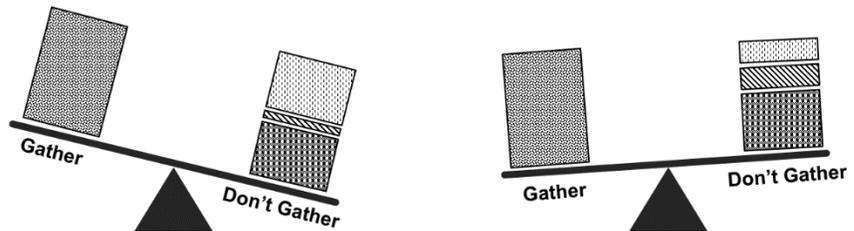
Matthew 18:20

Health and safety are high priorities for Emmanuel's congregation, as the Coronavirus pandemic has devastated the world. Following more than a year of virtual / Zoom services, Emmanuel's leadership is planning for the option of attending **worship in-person** within the church building. *Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd*, will be the starting date.

Planning a return to Emmanuel is complex. Zoom video will continue! But re-starting in-person worship will require key precautions based on NYS & CDC guidance, plus a steep learning curve of technical improvements at the church. Following Pentecost, weighing the risks of in-person worship will also be re-evaluated. So, attending Emmanuel in-person might be considered an experiment. Another re-start may occur later in 2021.

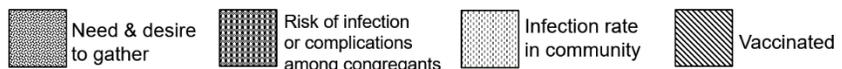
Gather? or Don't Gather? Safely gathering without catching or spreading the virus is our priority. Here are limits and precautions that will define our attendance at the church:

Balancing Risk at Emmanuel



For members

- Mask-wearing is required
- Temperature recorded upon entry to church
- Please enter through Narthex OR Kitchen (avoid office entry)
- Questions from ushers about any symptoms (changes in health status are important & confidential.)
- No communal singing
- Capacity is limited. Sanctuary seating will maintain a **social distancing** except for 'pods' (pairs/families/households), so reservations are highly recommended. Please **RSVP by May 18th** via either:
 - a. emmanuelalbany@juno.com
 - b. 518-465-5161
 - c. USPS
- Ushers will verify contact information
- Arrive EARLY!



Adapted from: Smith, GA (2021) "Life in U.S. Religious Congregations Slowly Edges Back Toward Normal" Pew Research Center for Religion & Public Life. Accessed at: www.pewforum.org/2021/03/22

YES, we'll attend worship in-person:

- 5/23
- 5/30
- 6/6
- 6/13
- 6/20

And how many in your 'pod'? []

For the sanctuary

- Ventilation with fans (like summertime, but dress for a chill)
- Filters in HVAC replaced weekly
- Ushers assure & guide seating for social distancing
- Pastor will not wear a mask

Our Reverend Kathy Donley said she knows of no other congregations in New York that are conducting worship **BOTH** as virtual / Zoom services **AND** as in-person / sanctuary services. Please help Emmanuel's transition to normalcy as we experiment with technology AND tradition. Do RSVP your plans to attend the sanctuary in-person. Please check-off the Sunday dates for this experiment listed above for the RSVP.

- Property & Financial Management





As you know, our new Constitution and Bylaws were approved at our January 2021 annual meeting. They are scheduled for a second vote in January 2022 and then will describe and support our new governance structure. A new document, called *Procedures and Resolutions*, was organized by the Constitution Committee to describe our routine procedures and to revise wording in previous resolutions. This organization and revision will bring all of our governing documents into alignment. That document was available for congregational comment at our last quarterly meeting in April.

A lawyer, Carolyn Lemmon, Esq., who was recommended by ABCNYS, has reviewed all of these documents and declared they are fine and acceptable. The documents are now in the hands of a copyeditor experienced in legal tracts for final review. The copyeditor's work will be complete by the end of May. EBC members will be able to vote on the *Procedures and Resolutions* section at our next quarterly meeting.

Congratulations to Sam Hill, Tom Lahut, Edith Leet and Marilyn Malone for their hard work on the Constitution Committee. Thanks to Pastor Kathy for her patient, thoughtful input during the long process.



You may or may not know that Emmanuel has a YouTube channel, where videos of our worship services are posted. The worship and prayer service videos are in the playlist of that name. There is also a playlist for the "virtual choir" videos that have been incorporated into many of our services.

Here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIbEdiNURt1wVW3-NUCiNQ>

Please check out the YouTube channel and its playlists, and Subscribe! It doesn't cost anything, and it will help get our message out. You could even "like" a few videos, and that will help too.

Grace and Peace to all --
Kathy Moore



FOCUS News...



WELCOME NOAH TUBBS

Program Development Coordinator
noaht@focuschurches.net

Noah grew up in Indiana and graduated from Ohio State University with a degree in agricultural engineering. As a VISTA Fellow, Noah will coordinate our garden-farm connections, recruit new volunteers, and assist with grant writing and fundraising.



FOCUS GETS TWO NEW KITCHEN ADDITIONS!

THANKS TO GRANTS AND GENEROUS FOCUS DONORS, WE NOW HAVE:

- A 20 CUBIC FT. FREEZER AT OUR BREAKFAST PROGRAM (TO STORE MORE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH ITEMS)
- A 28 CUBIC FT. REFRIGERATOR AT OUR INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY (TO STORE MORE FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES TO DISTRIBUTE TO PANTRY GUESTS.)

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS AND FOR ALL THOSE WHO SUPPORT THE IMPORTANT WORK OF

FOCUS

Mark Your Calendar..



FOCUS

CHURCHES OF ALBANY

www.focuschurches.net

info@focuschurches.net



1ST ANNUAL BROOKS BBQ FUNDRAISER

**TO BENEFIT THE FOCUS
FEEDING PROGRAMS**

*BREAKFAST PROGRAM

*FOOD PANTRY

*GARDENING PROGRAM

.....

\$13 CHICKEN DINNERS

**INCLUDES 1/2 CHICKEN, BAKED POTATO,
COLESLAW, ROLL & DESSERT**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16TH
3-6 PM
DELMAR REFORMED CHURCH**

386 DELEWARE AVE, DELMAR

*Together we can feed the
hungry in our community.*



Ladies and Gentlemen:

You are invited to a virtual lunch in the first part of May. The restaurant is your own home, where the service is excellent and the food is outstanding. Please provide your own food and beverages and prepare to enjoy some good conversation.

The Ladies' Lunch will be on Thursday, May 5, at 11:45 a.m. at the Zoom link below. If you plan to come, please notify Edith Leet at edith.leet@outlook.com or call 518-482-6612.



The Gentlemen's Lunch will be one week later on Thursday, May 12, at 11:45 a.m. at the same Zoom link. If you plan to come, please notify Ian Leet at ian.leet@outlook.com or call 518-482-6612.

Hoping to see you there. Bon Appetit!





Pathfinder Lodge Announces

2021 Camp Season

It's happening! We have been watching and planning for so long and we are finally ready to announce the 2021 summer program. This year we are returning to a traditional over-night summer camp program. Though the program may look different, we are so excited to welcome our campers in-person once again.

This means we are hiring! We have many staff and volunteer positions available. Find the 2021 camping application and job descriptions at our website.

Pathfinder Lodge is a rustic camp located on the shores of Lake Otsego in Cooperstown, NY. The camp provides a robust summer camping program, a special needs camping program, family camping, and camp and conference facilities for groups.

Pathfinder Lodge Children and Teen Sessions



June 27-30	Beginners 1	1st-4th Grades	\$300
June 27-30	Leadership Training	10-12th Grades	\$240
June 27-July 2	Xtreme Outdoors	5th-10th Grades	\$460
July 5-10	Jr. & Sr. High Challenge	8th-12 Grades	\$460
July 5-10	Pathfinder Lodge Investigates	4th-7th Grades	\$460
July 5-10	Discovery	2nd-4th Grades	\$460
July 11-16	Sailing	7th-12 Grades	\$485
July 11-16	Life-Sized Games	4th-7th Grades	\$460
July 11-16	De-Stress Week	6th-12 Grades	\$460
August 8-13	Water Adventure	7th-12 Grades	\$460
August 8-13	Exploration Explosion	4th-7th Grades	\$460
August 15-20	Replay Week	4th-10th Grades	\$460
August 17-20	Begin Again (Beginners II)	1st-4th Grades	\$300



From Capital Area Council of Churches:



Albany Maritime Ministry is an ecumenical group of volunteers who welcome seafarers that dock in the Capital District of upstate New York. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, seafarers at the

port must remain on their ships. Albany Maritime Ministry has made a few changes which includes making "Hospitality Bags". They are looking for groups and individuals to collect items for the bags and also to deliver them.

More information, including a list of items, can be found at the [CACC website](#). You can reach the ministry at (518) 462-9153

Happy Birthday...

- Laeh Paw
- Sydney Klope
- Beth Malone
- Neeqa Din
- Lianne DeMieri
- Amy Garner
- Skylar Asala
- Ericka Silverman
- Noah Silverman
- David Malone



- 5th
- 10th
- 11th
- 15th
- 17th
- 18th
- 19th
- 21st
- 22nd
- 23rd

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

Deadline for June MOSAIC:
May 18



Photo: D. Wilburn

Emmanuel Baptist Church
275 State St.
Albany, NY 12210



Photo: D. Wilburn