

THE MOSAIC

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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
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Pastoral Ponderings



Our van has over 250,000 miles on it. It is 17 years old, not quite old enough to vote, unlike our other car which was made in 1999. The van is a reminder that, for a brief season, I was a soccer Mom. We relied on the van for school carpools and family road trips and the annual hauling of the Christmas tree. Canine nose prints perpetually smudged the glass in the passenger windows. We diligently cleaned them off, but they reappeared, even in the year when we were without a dog --

go figure! This was the vehicle that Molly and I used for college scouting trips, and the one that brought me to Albany to meet with the pastoral search committee for the first time.

Our mechanic has been monitoring the transmission for a while. This week, he said that he hadn't expected it to last 50,000 miles when he started watching it. That was 97,000 miles ago. But this week, he also said that it is time to say good-bye. So, we'll be looking for a new car. That may come as welcome news to any of you who were chagrined by the appearance of the van every time you caught sight of it in the pastor's parking spot. For us, it represents a significant change. We are not mourning an inanimate object, but we realize that its demise will likely change some of our habits. Will we allow dogs to ride in our next, not-so-old vehicle? We don't expect to buy a van again, but then how will we get a Christmas tree home?

Change is hard because change involves loss. Even if we want what comes with the change – a new job, a better place to live, an exciting opportunity – we will inevitably be giving up something. I am ready for a new vehicle, and this is a minor loss compared to some very significant changes that happened for many people in the last 15 months. Still, it brings nostalgia about a whole lot of living that happened in the last 17 years.

continued...

In their book about leadership in the business world, James Belasco and Ralph Stayer wrote “*Change is hard because people overestimate the value of what they have – and underestimate the value of what they may gain by giving that up.*” (Flight of the Buffalo, 1994) This accurately describes a phenomenon that I have seen play out often in churches. I am not saying that is true 100% of the time, but very often. For the last few years at Emmanuel, many of us in leadership have talked about letting go of ineffective programs or habits that no longer serve us well. We could talk about it, but it was very hard to do it. I think that part of the issue was that we could not imagine what we would gain in doing so. What we would be giving up was known, what we would gain was unknown, and so maybe we overestimated the value of the thing that was known.

The pandemic make us give up several knowns in the last year. We have felt loss on many levels. So it would be natural to try to pick up all the things we used to have, to automatically restore our pre-Covid programs and routines, as a way of “getting back to normal”. I hope we won’t do that. We are in the season of Pentecost, and I feel the winds of the Spirit blowing around us. I believe that change is possible. I believe that in the last year, we may have learned some things about what is most important.

There are very few silver linings in the Covid-19 cloud, but perhaps one is that it forced us to change our patterns. As a result, we have the closest thing to a blank slate that an established church ever gets. Over the next few months, we will have conversations about what we have and what we might gain with various changes. This is a critical time in history and in the history of the Emmanuel community. I urge you to engage in as many of those conversations as possible. You can start with two referenced in this newsletter – the Thrive project database and the Pastoral Relations Committee survey.

Peace,

Kathy

Watch for special guest, Ravi Ragbir on June 16. The co-founder of the New Sanctuary Coalition, Ravi is a Trinidadian immigrant who has been fighting his own deportation since 2006.

Join Zoom Meeting



Welcome the Children?

A faith-based conversation about U.S. immigration policy in 2021

Wednesday, June 16
12 noon-1:00 pm
on Zoom

For event details and Zoom link:
wpcalbany.org/upcoming-events

State Street Forum on Faith and Public Life
is co-sponsored by the NY State Council of
Churches and Westminster Presbyterian
Church of Albany, NY



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88622275411?pwd=VXgrNm9WeE1DV1BDaUEyckZ3dUtPQT09>

Meeting ID: 886 2227 5411 Passcode: 12210

Please read the following letter from our mission friends at ABCNYS. We are designating the month of June to receive the offering either in person or online through the church website. Please consider the grace you have received and be generous in your giving.

The season for the promotion of One Great Hour of Sharing has begun! The theme of this year's annual offering is *Let Love Flow*. Despite the many ways in which life has been restricted in the past year, I think you will be encouraged to learn how your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing did indeed *Let Love Flow*.

The year 2020 was unlike any year we have witnessed in our lifetime. Record-breaking fires on the west coast of the U.S. devastated communities and burned millions of acres. An extremely active hurricane season brought destruction to the Gulf Coast. A massive explosion in Beirut displaced thousands of individuals. All these events happened during the prolonged COVID-19 global pandemic. We are living in a time of uncertainty greater than that with which we are familiar. And yet, even with so much that is unclear about the future, one thing is certain: through this ministry of One Great Hour of Sharing, you continue to *Let Love Flow*.



The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every area of our personal and communal lives. In the same way, it also touched every area of the work of One Great Hour of Sharing: sustainable development, disaster relief, and refugee support. With so many in need, your compassion is more important than ever.

Our reality is that we have carried into 2021 many of the same challenges. Disasters will continue to occur. Displaced populations remain vulnerable. And hundreds of millions of people around the world struggle under the weight of poverty. Thanks to your faithfulness and generosity, One Great Hour of Sharing will continue to respond.

Events of the past year have shown us that even in times when we cannot be physically together in one place, our offerings to support One Great Hour of Sharing continue to strengthen our church's™ presence all over the world: providing water to the thirsty, food for the hungry, and hope for the weary. When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you *Let Love Flow*.• Your generosity ensures that, even during uncertainty, the transforming power of love continues to change the world. You can access the promotional materials at <http://abc-oghs.org/resources/promotional-materials/> Be sure to check out two new videos, *Let Love Flow* and *You Can't Hide Love*.

In grateful partnership,
Lisa Rothenberger-Winter, World Relief Officer



Cultivating Curiosity, Enlivening Community

May 30- June 20

10:00 a.m.

on Zoom and at 275 State Street

May 30 *Where are You From?*

Genesis 2:4-15 and John 1:35-51

June 6 *Where Does it Hurt?*

I Samuel 1:1-18 and Mark 5:21-43

June 13 *What Do You Need?*

Job 2:11-13 and 2 Timothy 4:9-18

June 20 *Where Do We Go From Here? Ruth 1:1-11 and Acts 10*

Our May/June worship series invites us to reconnect after the isolation and divisions of the last year. Our leading question, “*I’ve been meaning to ask ...*” conveys intentionality, warmth curiosity, and consideration. In essence, this question also implies the following statements: “*I’ve been thinking about you and I’ve been wanting to check in... You’ve been on my mind... I haven’t known how to have this conversation, but I’m getting started with a question.*” The ellipses symbolize the main objective of this series: to cultivate courageous conversations—and to keep having them, even if we need to pause. We hope this series helps us disrupt assumptions, cultivate curiosity, foster listening, and, God willing, find deeper connections to one another.

The tone of worship will be as conversational and interactive as we can make it, working around the necessary precautions for Covid. Each week there will be questions to be answered for the following Sunday. Please return your answers to Pastor Kathy via text or email or phone call to allow us to listen to and appreciate each other.



The Rev. Jerrod Huguenot will return to our pulpit on June 27. Jerrod is the Associate Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of New York State. Jerrod’s sermon *Citizens of a City Often Dimly Seen* will be based on Matthew 5:13-16.

Pastor Kathy will spend the prior week attending the Festival of Homiletics and the American Baptist Biennial on-line.



The Pastoral Relations Committee has primary responsibility for maintaining good communication between the pastor and the congregation. Let's communicate! At the June meeting, we will take stock of where we stand as we begin to emerge from the pandemic. Input from you is integral to that process.

We seek your responses to these questions:

- 1) Looking back over the last year, what do you celebrate about the Emmanuel community?
- 2) Looking back over the last year, what do you wish that the pastor or the Emmanuel community had done differently?
- 3) Looking forward, what do you see as a top priority in terms of expending Emmanuel's energy and resources? What tasks or activities should get the most of our time and money?
- 4) Looking forward, what habit or program did we put aside during the pandemic, that we should **not** return to?

You may respond to these questions in a survey at this link:

<https://8z4ppgtv27e.typeform.com/to/b2y9QVrP>

Or you may share them directly with a member of the Pastoral Relations Committee – Judy Henningson, Tony Malone, Johnson Din, Karen Green, Curtis Klope, Barb Lahut or Edith Leet.

Your responses will be handled with care by the pastor and the committee. Individual answers will not be shared beyond the group. **Please take the survey or contact a committee member with your input no later than June 13.**

“No Going Back” by Wendell Berry

*No, no, there is no going back.
Less and less you are
that possibility you were.
More and more you have become
those lives and deaths
that have belonged to you.
You have become a sort of grave
containing much that was
and is no more in time, beloved
then, now, and always.
And so you have become a sort of tree
standing over the grave.
Now more than ever you can be
generous toward each day
that comes, young, to disappear
forever, and yet remain
unaging in the mind.
Every day you have less reason
not to give yourself away.*





Churches that THRIVE for Racial Justice

Emmanuel has accepted the invitation of the Alliance of Baptists to join 26 congregational partners in actively confronting structures of racism in a five-year project called THRIVE. Pastor Kathy and Edith Leet will be our congregational representatives.

The goal of THRIVE is to examine white-dominant congregational life and vitality through the lens of the Alliance's commitment to racial justice. Its long-term objective is to eradicate the presence and address the ongoing harm of white supremacy in the Alliance and its congregational partners. We will create our own activities, collaborate with our THRIVE partners, and reflect on our experiences in line with this objective.

THRIVE will employ a learning community model within both the individual local churches and the entire cohort. The cohort of 27 churches from 19 states and two Canadian provinces connects like-minded people of faith with others who share a commitment to being part of God's work of bringing justice, love, and peace. We believe that as we engage in this collaborative work of anti-racism, we will experience a comradery and expansive sense of mission regarding our place in the world.

As our congregational representatives, Edith Leet and Pastor Kathy will spearhead Emmanuel's efforts and attend annual retreats with the cohort. The first retreat was on Zoom on May 22. However, this work is too important to leave in the hands of just a few – it belongs to all of us. **All of us** are strongly encouraged to engage in ongoing discipleship including reading, discussing, and reflecting on racial justice writings, as well as creating and implementing racial justice goals and activities for our congregation.

We also need to be involved in THRIVE's efforts to collect data on our activities. Through surveys and interviews over the next five years, THRIVE's researchers will create reports that will document how we and the other congregations have changed over that time. **Their first survey this fall is VERY important. THRIVE will be sending it out online to everyone in the Alliance of Baptists database. The more people who take the survey, the more reliable the information. Please fill out the form at [this link](#) to sign up for the database now.** Your information will not be shared outside the Alliance of Baptists.

ward 6 Common Council Candidates Forum Thursday, June 3, 6:00-8:00 p.m. On Zoom



Richard-Oliver Marius



Susan Pedo



Gabrielle Romero



Jeff Mayo

On June 3rd, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, the League of Women Voters will be hosting a Candidates Forum for the four candidates for Common Councilmember from Ward 6 which includes 275 State Street. Our church will be co-sponsoring this nonpartisan event along with the other FOCUS churches in Ward 6 (First Presbyterian and Trinity United Methodist). Whether or not you live in Ward 6 or live in Albany, you have a stake in this election because of your connection to Emmanuel. Click on the link below on Thursday to join this event through a Zoom Meeting: <http://tinyurl.com/2021Ward6CandidateForum>

FOCUS News...

Mark Your Calendar...



FOCUS Summer Services

The tradition of the FOCUS summer worship services is that worship is conducted in the customary style of the host church. For summer 2021, that means that whether the service is virtual or in-person or both is at the discretion of the host church. Each church will make its own decision. Information about how to reserve a seat or log-in online will be provided in advance.

Monthly hosts are:

July 4 – First Presbyterian (on Facebook Live)

August 1 – Emmanuel Baptist

September 5 – Trinity United Methodist



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.*

Congratulations, Graduates!



Sadie Chaffin will graduate from Scotia Glenville High School and will attend the University of New Hampshire to major in psychology.

Samantha Paul will graduate from The Academy of the Holy Names and plans to attend Northeastern University, majoring in Marketing



Cassandra Paul will graduate from the Academy of the Holy Names and will attend the Rochester Institute of Technology, majoring in Advertising and Public Relations



Alexandra Bloss will graduate from SUNY Geneseo with a B.S. in Biochemistry, a B.A. in Mathematics, and a Minor in the Edgar Fellows Program. In September she will attend UMHS in St. Kitts where she will get her M.D. in December 2024.



Rebecca Leet will be earning a Bachelor's degree in psychology from Maria College. Next steps: the big bad world of work at least for a while. Grad school maybe in future.



CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



Malones at Peebles Island



Nancy Horan at the traditional starting point

Team Emmanuel walkers (Jean Burton, Nancy Horan, Becca Leet, Edith Leet, Marilyn Malone, Tony Malone and Judah Appe) raised \$2178! Many thanks to those who so generously supported us. Funds donated help support Church World Service global hunger fighting programs and local soup kitchens and food pantries.

It's Lunchtime!

It's a new month and a new opportunity to get together for a virtual lunch. Our Women's Lunch will be on Thursday, June 3, at 11:45 a.m. Our Men's Lunch will be the next week, Thursday, June 10 at 11:45 a.m. 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. **Invite your friends**—the more the merrier!

No need to register, just join us at the link below.

Women, join at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82257698227?pwd=TnNNbUpOb3ZqYS82ZHZuRIN1WkhyUT09>

OR

Dial by your location: +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 822 5769 8227

Passcode: 958579

Men, join the Zoom lunch at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87626238100?pwd=MldWRmYrUkFHUTQrNkpsM0QwNzljZz09>

Meeting ID: 876 2623 8100

Passcode: 731159

OR

Dial by your location: +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

If you have any trouble, call Edith or Ian Leet at 518-482-6612. Hope to see you there. Bon appetit!

Happy Birthday...

Donna Brown
Danielle Johnson
Barbara Lahut
Bob Green
Sarah Malone
Edie Simpson
Robin Bray
Adele LaBarge
19th
Erin Wilkerson
Ken Cole
Eh Kui Do
Edith Leet



8th
9th
9th
10th
13th
17th
18th

19th
19th
24th
29th

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

Remember the
Food Pantry...
bar soap



Begins June 21!

Deadline for July MOSAIC:
June 18



Special Note:

Bible Club for children will not meet in June, July or August. See you in September!

Emmanuel Baptist Church
275 State St.
Albany, NY 12210

