

# THE MOSAIC

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**EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH**

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## *Pastoral Ponderings*

I am about to leave for vacation. I don't think I have ever needed a vacation as much as this one. The long lockdown of pandemic has made me more grateful than ever for the privilege of travel and the opportunity to celebrate family milestones. One week of this vacation will be devoted to camping and hiking and exploring Acadia National Park. I will be out of range of

cell towers and Zoom for most of it – total bliss! A second week will take us to Kentucky to celebrate 60 years of marriage for Jim's parents. The actual anniversary occurred earlier this year, when we were all still in Covid lockdown. We are looking forward to seeing extended family for the first time in more than a year and a half. I hope that all of you will find some opportunities for recreation and renewal this summer, whether it is at a national park or with family in another state or in your own backyards.

I plan to thoroughly enjoy my vacation, but I am also looking forward to what comes next, to the ways that we are shaping our communal life as we emerge from the strain and hardships of the past year. We endured together, and as a result, we are changed, probably in ways that we do not yet know. I am confident that God is at work for good among us.

Last month, many of you participated in the survey conducted by the Pastoral Relations Committee. Twenty-five individuals responded along with a group response from the Wednesday Bible study. Your answers suggest that you also have confidence in God's good work among us. You celebrated the resilience we demonstrated over the last year, our ability to learn new technology and our attempts to stay connected with those who lacked that ability. You extended grace to those in leadership, including me. We worked hard, but not perfectly. It was also our first time to experience a worldwide pandemic and you recognized that everyone did the best they could.

*continued...*

In response to the question about priorities for the future, most of you had an outward focus. You mentioned reaching those who are not part of the congregation, combating racism and gun violence, protecting the queer community, and building on what we have learned about being church in digital space. You want to continue nurturing children and youth. You also wonder about sustaining our presence at 275 State Street. You want to provide opportunities for adults to engage in spiritual and theological formation, but many of you are open to doing that at times other than right after worship on Sundays.

These responses are hopeful. The difficulties of the last 18 months have not diminished your capacity for compassion, your hunger for justice. You are choosing flexibility and openness to change rather than a rigid return to our pre-Covid patterns. I am always proud to be your pastor and your attitudes in times like these only amplify that feeling.

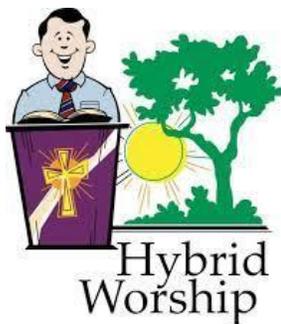
Please plan to be present for worship in August (unless that's your best opportunity for your own rest and renewal). We'll return to the question "where do we go from here?" with a focus on what the early church might teach us about being on mission with Jesus in our current context.



Peace,

Kathy

**The Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff will be available for pastoral urgencies** during Pastor Kathy's vacation (July 7-21). If you are in need of pastoral care, please be in touch with Karen Green. She will connect with Pastor Heather.



Thank you for complying with our health protocols as some of us returned to worship in the sanctuary. Beginning July 11, we will operate within the following parameters:

- We will not require reservations.
- Fully vaccinated people may attend without mask.
- Fully vaccinated people may sing without a mask.
- People who are not fully vaccinated should wear a mask at all times but may sing with a mask.

### **July 4 at 10 am -- FOCUS Summer Worship**

We gather online with the other FOCUS churches for our first combined summer service. First Presbyterian Church will host online only through Facebook Live. You do not need to have a Facebook account to participate. Please bring your own communion elements to your worship space. Join here: <https://www.facebook.com/First-Presbyterian-Church-of-Albany-199702876717559>



**July 11—The Rev. Jim Ketcham preaching**  
**Sermon: There Are No Others**  
Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
Matthew 5:38-48

**July 18 – The Rev. Mark Chaffin preaching**  
**Reflection: Shepherding our Souls**  
**to Places Green and Still**  
Psalm 23  
Mark 6:30 – 34



**July 25 – Missionary guests,**  
**Ketley and Vital Pierre**  
Ketley and Vital Pierre welcomed EBC mission teams to the Dominican Republic in previous years. They last spoke at Emmanuel about 5 years ago. They are currently in Boston where Ketley is receiving treatment for breast cancer. They will join us on July 25 via Zoom.

**Deadline for August MOSAIC:**  
**July 18**

**Attention, Sunday School Teachers**  
**and Helpers!**

A meeting for Sunday School teachers, assistants, helpers of all kinds and parents is scheduled for **July 28 at 7:00 pm**. This gathering will be in person with electronic connection for those who prefer it. We will share feedback about Bible Club and look ahead to next year. Mark your calendar! Maybe we will even have dessert together! (MM)

*FOCUS News...*

***Mark Your Calendar...***



***Services ... Watch for details!***

**Monthly hosts are:**

July 4 – First Presbyterian (on Facebook Live)

August 1 – Emmanuel Baptist

September 5 – Trinity United Methodist

**The Immigration Task Force of the FOCUS Churches** will reconvene in September 2021. FOCUS Churches has identified the complex issue of immigration as one of four priorities to which we may respond with advocacy, collective participation by our covenant churches and affiliates, linking with community partners, and providing direct service. The good momentum we had built up in this important area came to a sudden halt when the pandemic broke out in March 2020, but we are preparing to take it up again this fall. We will begin with re-assessing the contributions and needs of immigrants in our community, the services currently available, and the effects of changes in immigration policies within the last year. Four EBCers are already involved – Mary Asala, Nancy Horan, Becky Klope, and Kathy Moore. We are looking for a few more friends within the FOCUS Community to join this work. If you are interested, please contact Belinda Quaye in the FOCUS office to add your name to the roster. [belindaq@focuschurches.net](mailto:belindaq@focuschurches.net) 518-443-0460 ext. 2.



The FOCUS Board voted at its June meeting to become co-sponsors of the State Street Forum on Faith and Public Life, a monthly noontime conversation that began as a partnership between the Westminster Presbyterian Church and the New York State Council of Churches. Our goal for the Forum is to engage people

of faith in the work of connecting our faith with issues of public concern so that we can more fully participate in public conversations and become effective advocates for policies that align with our values.

The Forum launched in May with a conversation on Zoom called "Beyond Food Drives" that focused on long-term remedies to food insecurity in New York State. FOCUS Executive Director Fred Boehrer was one of the speakers. In June, a conversation on immigration included a "faith response" from Rev. Kathy Donley from Emmanuel Baptist Church, a FOCUS congregation. Recordings of both conversations are available on Westminster's YouTube page.

The Forum will be on vacation in July and August but we look forward to returning on September 15th, 2021. If you have suggestions for topics or speakers please email Heather Kirk-Davidoff at [pastor@wpcalbany.org](mailto:pastor@wpcalbany.org)



## FOCUS Churches School Supply Drive

### What to donate:

Backpacks, pencils, erasers, black/blue/red pens, crayons, markers, highlighters, folders, binders, notebooks wide/college ruled, composition books, pencil bags/boxes, scissors, glue sticks, rulers, dry erase markers, and more

Please donate by check (FOCUS Churches *School Supplies*) or online at [focuschurches.net](http://focuschurches.net)

You may drop-off items at FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry (Emmanuel Baptist Church)  
July 12-August 20, Monday through Friday from 10 am-12:30 pm.  
Questions: contact Noah Tubbs at (518) 443-0460 ext. 3

**Remember the  
Food Pantry...** *shampoo*



**IT'S SUMMERTIME!!!**

**And... we're having picnics!!**

**WOO-HOO!!!**

**Two are currently planned,  
and we hope there will be a few more.**

**Mark your calendars!**

**WHEN:** Sunday, **July 11**, 12:00 noon @ Colonie  
Mohawk River Town Park  
(Worship Service will be @ EBC, 10 am)

**AND**

**July 25**, 12:00 noon, at the Green's house

**BRING** a chair and a dish to pass. There will be meat from the grill, and **ALL FOOD** will be served by designated persons, **NOT self-serve**. Mark your calendar and join the fun!  
*-- Ellen Corcoran & Andrea Carver, Hospitality*



**Youth...** We will meet at church on Thursday, August 5, 6:30 pm.  
Plan to enjoy fellowship, food and fun!



## Day at Pathfinder Planned

You are invited to join your Emmanuel family at Pathfinder Lodge on August 7 for a day of outdoor fellowship and fun! We will meet in the morning at Pathfinder and spend the day doing fun activities and enjoying time together in God's creation, returning to the Albany area in the evening. More details will be forthcoming but in the meantime please

sign up at this link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-8YbiWA6KgeLrDRbQmVCH0EAM7IZfi9HhAP7hy0kO-o/edit> We hope that you are able to join us! -- Alex Bloss

## Happy Birthday...

MaKayla Smith  
1<sup>st</sup>

Amanda Gibson

Kevin Cole

Bessie Gibson

Nancy Horan

Tracy Collins

Andrea Carver

Kendra Lahut

Silas Klope

Rebecca Malone

Jim Wilkerson

Paw E Kler

Dah Blut Soe

Esther Moore

Curtis Klope

Elaine Clark

Amber Collins

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



4<sup>th</sup>  
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31<sup>st</sup>



In addition, sexton, Joe Burns is in the building on Sunday, Monday, Thursday and Friday.

*Dear Emmanuel Family and Friends:*

*After our house fire on April 22, 2021, we have been truly blessed with an outpouring of help and support from everyone. I want to personally say "thank you" to everyone who came to our aid with love, prayers, caring, supportive words and generous donations and financial assistance. I'm beyond grateful to be a part of a church that has made me feel like part of a family. You came to our aid without hesitation, went forward and did not cease. Again, we truly thank you.*

*We are blessed to have so many people who took time out of a nonending busy day to care for us. Our hearts are full of love, respect, and thankfulness to all. I would like to personally thank everyone involved, but I wouldn't even know where to start. Words cannot express the gratitude we feel for all your support. It is a privilege to be part of the Emmanuel family.*

*Love from,  
Veronica, Amber, Tracy  
and Che'Lah*

 **As we transition toward more familiar routines and activities, church office hours are 9 to 1 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays through the summer. A fuller schedule will resume after Labor Day. At other times, messages may be left on our voicemail which is checked regularly.**

Emmanuel Baptist Church  
275 State St.  
Albany, NY 12210

