

# THE MOSAIC

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**EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH**

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## *Pastoral Ponderings*

I really don't like the task of writing. My children find it deliciously ironic that my vocation requires me to write so much. Most significantly, there is a weekly deadline by which time I have to write a manuscript of 1800-2000 words which aims to be partly educational, partly inspirational, partly motivational. Oh yeah, and in that manuscript, I try to speak on behalf of God and on behalf of God's people and to God's people. No pressure. I actually like preaching, but not the writing of the sermon.



I recommend preaching as a spiritual discipline because the one who preaches has to articulate her own beliefs much more clearly than those who hear the sermon. On the way to the sermon, I learn a lot. On the way to the sermon, I read the Bible and scholarly commentaries of course. I also watch movies and talk with strangers and pay attention to current events and read the comments on Facebook posts. Sometimes, I get a glimpse into fields I know nothing about.

Our Tuesday Lenten conversations have been forays into other disciplines. I'm grateful to Tony Malone, Jim Wilkerson and Kathy Moore who did the preparation so that we could engage meaningfully with the insights of people who are leading social change. On the way to a sermon and to one Lenten conversation, I discovered Makoto Fujimura. He is a contemporary artist, writer and speaker. He is also deeply committed to Christ, always seeking connections between his art and his faith.

In the Japanese art of *Kintsugi*, he finds an organizing metaphor for our time. The Japanese word *Kin* means "gold" and *Tsugi* means "mend." *Kintsugi* is the technique by which the broken fragments of precious pottery are mended with gold. A bowl mended with gold is more valuable than it was before it broke.

*Tsugi* also means "to link the generations together." The families who owned broken bowls would keep them for two or three generations before they were mended. The broken pieces represent trauma. Japanese wisdom teaches that trauma is not easily fixed. Some traumas you have to hold onto for generations before you can even think about mending.

Makoto Fujimura says, "*Hold on to the fragments. Behold the fragments. Look at them until they are beautiful. Can we do that? . . . Can we simply behold the fragments and let*

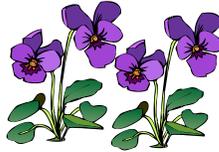


*continued...*

*them speak to us as they are, sharp-edged, broken. Sometimes the pieces are missing. Can we approach somebody walking into our churches, bringing in their fractures, sometimes visible, sometimes invisible and say 'we're not going to fix you here, but we're going to mend. And starting to mend means beholding you as you are, because we are all shattered.'"*

The Body of Christ has an important role to play as we move through the trauma of a worldwide pandemic. We follow the Crucified One. We descend from a community of disciples who were traumatized by his suffering and death. We celebrate the Risen One. We, of all people, might choose to behold the beauty to be found in the fragments, and to affirm that the emerging new creation may be more precious than what was before.

Peace,  
**Kathy**



**Last Lenten Tuesday for the Season**  
**April 5, 7:00 p.m.**  
**on Zoom**

Tarana Burke is the originator of the Me Too Movement which raises awareness of sexual abuse and assault. We will listen to pieces of her story in her own voice and consider themes of abuse, prevention and care as well as the power of truth telling. Led by Kathy Moore.

**CHILDREN, You're Invited...**

**Wednesday, April 6**  
**4:30-5:30**

**in the Emmanuel kitchen**

On the Thursday before Easter, we will remember the last supper that Jesus shared with his disciples. Because it was Passover, they would have had special unleavened bread, called matzoh. Emmanuel children are invited to make the matzoh which will be used for both our worship in person and on Zoom. It's easy and fun! I hope many of you will come. Parents, friends and teens who would like to help are also invited. Questions? Contact Marilyn, by email or 518-312-87861



Plan to join for worship on Maundy Thursday, April 14, at 6:30 when we will eat the matzoh.

**Maundy Thursday**  
**April 14 6:30 p.m.**

We gather, in person and on Zoom, to remember Jesus' last meal with his friends and to take stock of our own lives, our own role as Jesus' friends and followers. Our worship will include remembrance of baptism and sharing in holy communion.



**Alliance of Baptists**  
**2022 Virtual Annual Business Meeting**  
**April 9 -- 2:00-5:00 p.m.**  
Register at <https://allianceofbaptists.org/events/>



Alliance  
of Baptists 

*Come learn about the Alliance!*  
*Come join your voices with others*  
*in prophetic witness to God's justice in the world!*  
*Come and engage with others who share your commitment*  
*to the embodiment of God's justice and love!*

Emmanuel became a congregational partner of the Alliance this year. The annual meeting, offered on Zoom, is a place where your presence and voice help give shape and form to the future of our movement for God's justice and love. We will hear from the nominating committee. We will hear from our board of directors about the state of the Alliance. You will be invited to join new initiatives and share your voice! This is a chance for you to join the collective voice of the Alliance as we shape the future of our movement together!

**Good Friday**  
**April 15, 2022**  
**Pray and Reflect with**  
**FOCUS Churches**  
**4:00-8:00 p.m.**



On Good Friday this year, the FOCUS Churches of Albany invite you to spend time in prayer and reflection in our sanctuaries. Each church will offer some interactive prayer stations which will help you to focus as you light a candle, take a meditative walk around a labyrinth, kneel at the cross, shape a vessel out of clay, reflect on scripture and more. You are also welcome to just come and sit and enjoy the beauty of our historic buildings. Those who wander between our churches will encounter a few outdoor prayer stations along the way.

Four of our churches are within walking distance from each other: Emmanuel Baptist Church (275 State Street), First Presbyterian Church (362 State Street), Trinity United Methodist Church (235 Lark Street) and Westminster Presbyterian Church (262 State Street).

A booklet, available at each church or online, will offer directions, instructions and some readings to inspire you. Emmanuel's prayer stations include a reflection on the Seven Last Words of Christ and a reflection on baptism. The baptistery will have water in it!

First Church in Albany, located at 110 North Pearl Street, will offer the Stations of the Cross around the exterior of their building. Delmar Reformed Church, located at 386 Delaware Avenue in Delmar will provide a service of worship at 7:00 p.m.

All are welcome! Our sanctuaries are handicapped accessible. Children are most welcome to come and participate. For more information, call the FOCUS office or any of our churches.

*Easter party*

**Saturday, April 16  
11:30-1:30**

**at Emmanuel**



Treasure hunt!

Lunch!

Easter Eggs!

Fun for All!

*Children of all ages, parents, grandparents, friends, teens are invited!*

Please let Ellen or Marilyn know if you are coming and how many.



*Easter Sunday, April 17*

*6:30 a.m.*

**Swan Street Stairs, west side of Capital Park**

*After a two-year hiatus,*

*the FOCUS sunrise service returns!*

**Preaching:** The Rev. Trey Tirpak,  
Minister for Discipleship and Outreach at First Church

This 30-minute outdoor worship service will be followed with light refreshments (baked goods, Easter eggs, coffee, tea and juice), also offered at West Capitol Park for all who wish to safely gather socially. You may wish to bring a lawn chair.



**Tuesday, April 19 from 3-6 pm**  
**Delmar Reformed Church**  
386 Delaware Ave, Delmar

**Brooks "To-Go" Chicken BBQ  
Fundraiser for FOCUS**

*\$15 for each to-go meal*

**Place your orders:**

- by going to the FOCUS website  
([focuschurches.net](http://focuschurches.net))

**or**

- by using the QR  
scan, (on the flyer)

**or**

- by calling  
FOCUS: 518-443-0460 ext. 1



This fundraiser will enable us to continue our outreach through our Interfaith Food Pantry, Breakfast Club, Outreach & Community Gardening Projects.



**First Annual Tulsa Race Massacre  
Lectureship  
April 25, 2022  
7:45 p.m. EST On-line**

The Rev. Dr. Angela Sims, president of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, will offer the first presentation in a Phillips Seminary lectureship which commemorates the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. The Greenwood District of

Tulsa was also known as Black Wall Street, The traumatic end of Greenwood is the story of how easily the Image of God can be distorted and destroyed as well as the power of resilience and resistance Dr. Sims is the author of the book, *Lynched: The Power of Memory in a Culture of Terror*. Register at <https://ptstulsa.edu/lectures/>



taking on the  
**CROSS**  
[re] learning the  
LOVE of GOD

**Alliance of Baptists  
2022 Virtual Annual Gathering  
April 22-24  
Register at [allianceofbaptists.org](https://allianceofbaptists.org)**

For a thousand years, western Christianity has seen the cross through the lens of substitutionary atonement—that Jesus died in our place and reconciled sinful humanity to God. The Annual Gathering seeks to re-examine this theology and explore new atonement ideas through panels, workshops, and worship. Two keynote speakers include

**Dr. Eboni Marshall-Turman** is an Assistant Professor of Theology and African American Religion at Yale Divinity School. Her book, *Toward a Womanist Ethic of Incarnation: Black Bodies, the Black Church, and the Council of Chalcedon*, connects the incarnational experience of Jesus to the oppressed experience of African Americans, which will enrich our conversation about atonement and the cross. A National Baptist minister, Dr. Marshall Turman was ordained at the historic Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem.



**Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock** is the Director of the Shay Moral Injury Center at Volunteers of America. A Disciples of Christ minister, Dr. Brock's deeply personal *Proverbs of Ashes: Violence, Redemptive Suffering and the Search for What Saves Us* (co-authored with Rebecca Parker) expressed an incisive feminist critique of Christian theories of atonement. She followed it up in 2008 with *Saving Paradise: How Christianity Traded Love of This World for Crucifixion and Empire*. (also with Rebecca Parker), where her research charted the Church's shift from resurrection paradise to crucified atonement.

# One Great HOUR OF SHARING

Last month, members of Emmanuel gave \$1250 to provide food and medical supplies and support for Ukrainians in distress during the Russian invasion. We sent that money to our Baptist partners in the European Baptist Federation through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Thank you for your generosity.

Here are some excerpts from a report published by Baptist News Global on March 25, 2022:

- Churches continue to be active in the Kherson region, almost all of which is under occupation. They gather for services and joint prayer meetings and organize help for all they can. Churches there and in the nearby towns of Olshkiv, Novokahovka and Chulakivsk remain engaged in a “huge initiative” to feed and find accommodations for displaced persons and to minister to local residents hiding in bomb shelters. Members of Golgotha Church in Kherson also have been caring for children from an orphanage they had to abandon at the start of the war, the federation said.
- According to the updates from the All-Ukrainian Union of Churches of Evangelical Christian Baptists, churches are involved in a range of activities including evacuation, resettlement, delivery of home-cooked food and humanitarian supplies and provision of spiritual care and prayer support.”
- That support is occurring in some of the hardest-hit areas, including the city of Mariupol, which has been under attack for more than two weeks and where an estimated 350,000 residents are hunkered in bomb shelters. Baptist churches in the area are helping people evacuate the city and delivering medicine from western Ukrainian cities not under immediate threat. But there is rarely enough food or medicine to meet all needs, a church deacon reported. “Unfortunately, food runs out quickly, and we need to go there and back, again and again. Lots of money is spent on fuel for buses and generators. One of the buses breaks every now and then. We need help.”
- Baptists in neighboring nations have risen to welcome Ukrainian refugees. Romanian churches “are working with local authorities to help long-term refugees find work, arrange schooling and integrate into society. Christians in Bucharest have set up the Ruth Refugee Center, which has provided 106 Ukrainians with a safe place to sleep since the start of March,” EBF said. “Other neighboring countries — Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Moldova — all continue to respond to the crisis on an incredible scale, housing refugees, transporting those in need and giving out food, clothing and medicine.”



**Deadline for May MOSAIC:  
April 18**



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

# CROP HUNGER WALK

## ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



The Albany CROP Hunger Walk (virtual or in person) is coming soon. The in person walk is scheduled for Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup>.

There will be an opening ceremony (also available to view on zoom) at 1:15 at First Lutheran Church, following registration.

You may walk with the group that day (choose a 1 mile or 3 mile loop) or you may decide to walk alone, with your family or in a socially distanced small group in your own neighborhood or a nearby park any time during the month of May.

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

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/emmanuel-baptist-church-albany>

I can 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 June 3.

If you are not walking, please support our team. Many of you helped last year and now the need is even greater, given the ongoing pandemic and the situation in Ukraine. 25% of funds raised are used for local hunger programs, and 75% for Church World Service hunger relief and development projects, disaster relief, improving access to clean water, and assisting refugees. Last year the Albany walk was 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation, raising \$104,008.



If you have any questions, contact Nancy via email or (518) 605-5763.

-- Nancy Horan

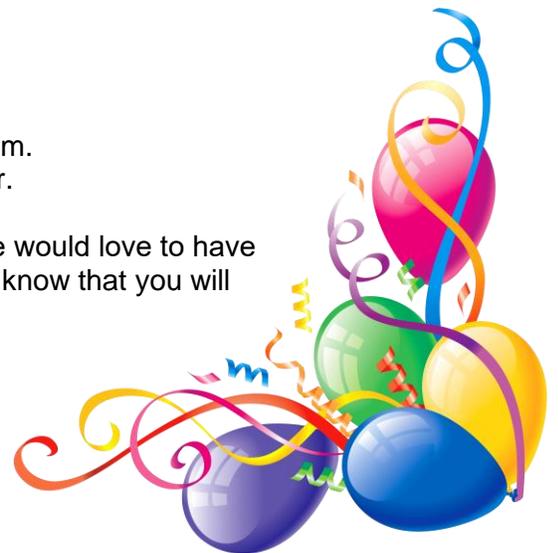
### *You are Invited...*

Dear Emmanuel Family:

My husband, Ian, is celebrating his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in April. We are planning an Open House on Saturday, April 23, from 1-4 p.m. at First Church in Albany, 110 Pearl Street, near the Palace Theater.

We will be in the church's Clee Park, weather permitting. We would love to have you come when you can and stay as long as you like. Please let us know that you will be there by calling 518-482-6612 or emailing Edith or Ian Leet.

Ample parking is available next to the church. Please, no presents, just come and celebrate!  
Directions to First Church are on the church's website under About Us at <https://www.firstchurchinalbany.org>.



### *Happy Birthday...*

Anthony Malone  
Geoffrey Bray  
Andrew Malone  
Chris LaBarge  
Ian Leet  
Tenosha Ford  
Hannah Scheu  
Lillian Matejczak



5<sup>th</sup>  
6<sup>th</sup>  
6<sup>th</sup>  
11<sup>th</sup>  
13<sup>th</sup>  
16<sup>th</sup>  
18<sup>th</sup>  
20<sup>th</sup>

Alyce Malone 21<sup>st</sup>  
Evie Garner 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Jonathan Bray 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Karen Green 27<sup>th</sup>  
*If your birthday is not published in our monthly listing, please notify Dorothy at 465-5161.*

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