

Published monthly by

**EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH**

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May 2022

Volume XXXVIII No. 3

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## *Pastoral Ponderings*

Hello! I'm talking to you. Yes, I really mean you. Will you talk to me please? I get to talk in church all the time. I get tired of the sound of my own voice, tired of my own thoughts. You might not believe that, but it is really true. I would love to hear your thoughts.

Here's the deal. I'm looking ahead to the summer. I'm wondering how to organize worship. I'm wondering what to preach. It is hard to preach a series during the summer, because people are in and out of town and the FOCUS services break things up. This is where you come in.

### **What would you like me to preach?**

I would love to hear from you about Bible stories that fascinate or delight or disturb you, stories that you don't hear preached on very often, but which you would like to. I would love to hear from you with specific questions about things you've been taught that you don't believe any more or things that you do believe that you don't hear being taught any more.

Maybe you want to know where the Bible says "God helps those who help themselves." That one is easy. The Bible doesn't say that. But maybe you have another scripture or part of a scripture in your mind, something that means a lot to you in a good way or in a not-so-good way. Maybe you'd like to understand the Biblical basis for a certain theological idea.

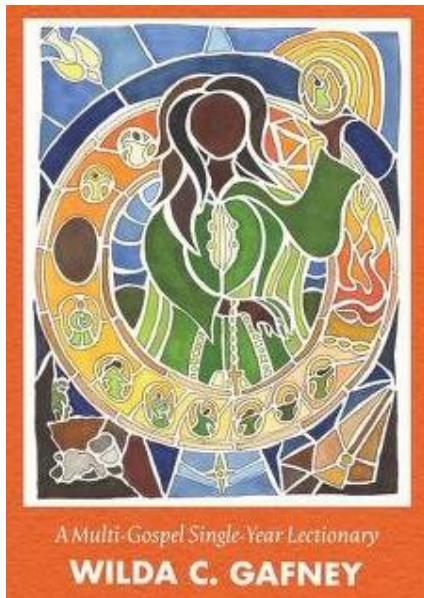
Please think about this and be in touch with me. Chances are if you are thinking about it, someone else is too. I am not promising to tackle every hard question you might ask in a sermon, but your promptings will give me some new things to think about. I will accept that as a welcome gift! Ideas shared with me before Memorial Day will have the greatest likelihood of showing up in a summer sermon.



In the meantime, we are in Eastertide. This is the season that follows Lent. One church nerd friend said that they liked Easter so much that they made 6 sequels – the Second Sunday of Easter, the Third Sunday of Easter, etc. It is not a coincidence that Easter occurs in the spring. European Christians designed our liturgical calendar, after all. But since we live in the Northern Hemisphere where the church seasons and the weather often coincide, we can rejoice in the coming of spring, the evidence of life renewed after winter, the return of the sun as we celebrate the resurrection. Be present on Sunday mornings for the sequels.

Peace,

**Kathy**



A Multi-Gospel Single-Year Lectionary  
**WILDA C. GAFNEY**

## Eastertide Worship

All four gospels report that women were the first witnesses to the Resurrection. John's gospel says that Jesus sends Mary Magdalene to tell the others that he is risen. The word "apostles" comes from the verb "to send". Apostles are those who are sent. Jesus **sends** Mary to **those who are sent**. Thus we can say that Mary is the apostle to the apostles.

For the season of Eastertide this year, Pastor Kathy is following a lectionary devised by Wilda Gafney. The Rev. Wilda Gafney is an Episcopal priest and professor of Hebrew Bible at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, TX. Her work, *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church* builds on womanist and feminist perspectives

and provides a counter-balance to traditional lectionaries which include only about ten percent of the women in the Bible. She has chosen texts and offered translations which make women and girls visible in the texts so that the words of good news, liberation, encouragement and of lament, brokenness and righteous rage may be heard by all.

### Date

**May 1**

The Third Sunday of Easter

### Text

Psalm 78:1-7

Matthew 22:28-33

**May 8**

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Luke 7:18-29

2 Corinthians 4:7-12

**May 15**

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:12-16

John 5:25-29

**May 22**

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Pulpit Guest:

The Rev. Jim Ketcham

**May 29**

Ascension Sunday

Psalm 24

Acts 1:1-11



# CROP HUNGER WALK ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

There is still time to support this cause. Speak with a member of Emmanuel's Team: Nancy Horan; Elisabeth Scheu, Tony Malone, Judah Appel, Edith Leet, Jean Burton. Please make checks out to CWS/CROP.

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

**Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**at 1:15**  
**First Lutheran Church**





## Come to the Campfire!

The Malone's will be hosting a campfire on Friday, May 6, 6:30 to 8:00, at 17 Fireside Lane, Latham. Everyone is invited and guests are welcome. There will be marshmallows, s'mores, songs and stories around the campfire. We have a good number of chairs, but you may want to bring a blanket for kids to sit on. It will be helpful in planning if you call, text (518-312-8761), or email Marilyn Malone if you are coming.

We will take some time to share thoughts about God, so for this session I'd like you to think about answering "God is \_\_\_\_\_". Please write or draw your ideas on a piece of paper. We will be putting them into the fire as a prayer. I'll have some extra pieces of paper in case you forget.

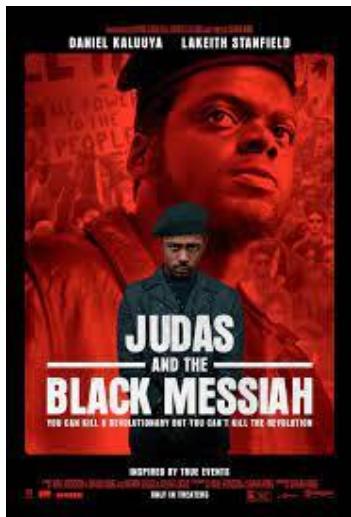
See you soon!!

Marilyn Malone



## NOTICE:

A congregational meeting will be held on May 8, 2022 immediately following worship. Topics will include current finances and reports from some committees.



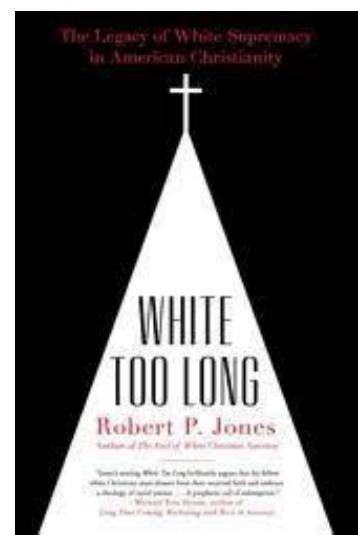
## Movie Scheduled

It's movie time again! We will screen *Judas and the Black Messiah* in the sanctuary after worship on Sunday, May 15. You may choose to watch it at home on your own schedule. It is available to rent on many streaming services.

*Judas and The Black Messiah* is based on real events. It tells the story of the Illinois Black Panther Party's infiltration by FBI informant William O'Neal at a time (1969) when J. Edgar Hoover was FBI Chief. Hoover perceived Fred Hampton, the charismatic leader of the Illinois Black Panthers, as a national security threat. Hampton was 21 years old when he was drugged, shot and killed in his bed during a raid by law enforcement. Many scholars now consider Hampton's death an assassination at the FBI's initiative.

Discussion of the movie will take place on Zoom and in-person, beginning about 2:15 p.m. The film is rated R for violence and pervasive language.

A light lunch will be provided at socially-distanced tables in fellowship hall. **Please let us know you're coming for lunch by signing up on the clipboard in fellowship hall or emailing Pastor Kathy [pastorkathy@emmanuelalbany.org](mailto:pastorkathy@emmanuelalbany.org) or calling Dorothy in the church office 518-465-5161 no later than May 10.**



## Thrive Book Study – June 5

In his book, *White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity*, life-long Baptist Robert P Jones draws on history, public opinion surveys and personal experience to argue that American churches have been thoroughly structured by an interest in protecting white supremacy. One of his provocative findings is that “the more racist attitudes a person holds, the more likely he or she is to identify as a white Christian.”

We'll talk about the book and how to reckon with what Jones calls the racism of our past and the willful amnesia of our present. Join us in person or on Zoom after coffee hour on June 5. Emmanuel has two copies of the book. Contact Pastor Kathy to borrow one. New and used copies may be purchased at alibris.com



## IT'S BACK – THE CAPITAL PRIDE PARADE AND FESTIVAL

**June 12**

**Washington Park, Albany**

Emmanuel has been represented at the Capital PRIDE Parade and Festival for about 15 years, and our participation has grown every year. We need the following:

- Parade Walkers
  - Check in at 10 AM – need 1 or 2 specific people to do this
  - Parade Steps off at Noon – we need all the walkers we can get!
  - Carry the banner and/or rainbow flags, umbrellas, etc.
- Festival Booth
  - Set-up begins at 10 AM
  - Booth “sitters” from Noon – 5 PM
    - Hand out give-aways (water, magnets, bags, fliers, etc.)
    - Wave to people, say hello, welcome them!
    - Talk about Emmanuel and invite them to worship
  - Tear down – begins around 4:30
- People-watchers – as in just being amazed by the variety of God's created people!

You are invited to participate in any and all of the above! This is a fantastic way to show true Emmanuel welcoming spirit! Contact Ruth Pushee for more information.



**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!**



Do you love to chat with folks and say good morning? We need your help on Sunday mornings! Emmanuel needs a group of folks who will rotate as Greeters for Sunday worship services. What does it entail, you ask?

- Arriving at church by about 9:35 or 9:40
- Standing (or sitting in a chair) by either the front door (outside during nice weather), or near the sanctuary door by the office
- Welcoming newcomers and long-time attendees to Emmanuel
- Introducing yourself to newcomers
- Making sure everyone has a bulletin (and Communion Elements on Communion Sundays) and handing a Welcome Packet to newcomers
- Assisting new folks with finding a seat, pointing out restrooms, etc.



Contact Ruth Pushee for more information or to volunteer for this important ministry! The calendar is wide open!

**Deadline for June MOSAIC:  
May 18**



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

*Happy Birthday...*

Laeh Paw  
Sydney Klope  
Beth Malone  
Neeqa Din  
Lianne DeMieri  
Amy Garner  
Skylar Asala



5<sup>th</sup>  
10<sup>th</sup>  
11<sup>th</sup>  
15<sup>th</sup>  
17<sup>th</sup>  
18<sup>th</sup>  
19<sup>th</sup>

Ericka Silverman  
Noah Silverman  
David Malone

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

21<sup>st</sup>  
22<sup>nd</sup>  
23<sup>rd</sup>



Emmanuel Baptist Church  
275 State St.  
Albany, NY 12210

