

THE MOSAIC

Published monthly by
EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

275 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NY 12210

Office: (518) 465-5161

emmanuelalbany@juno.com

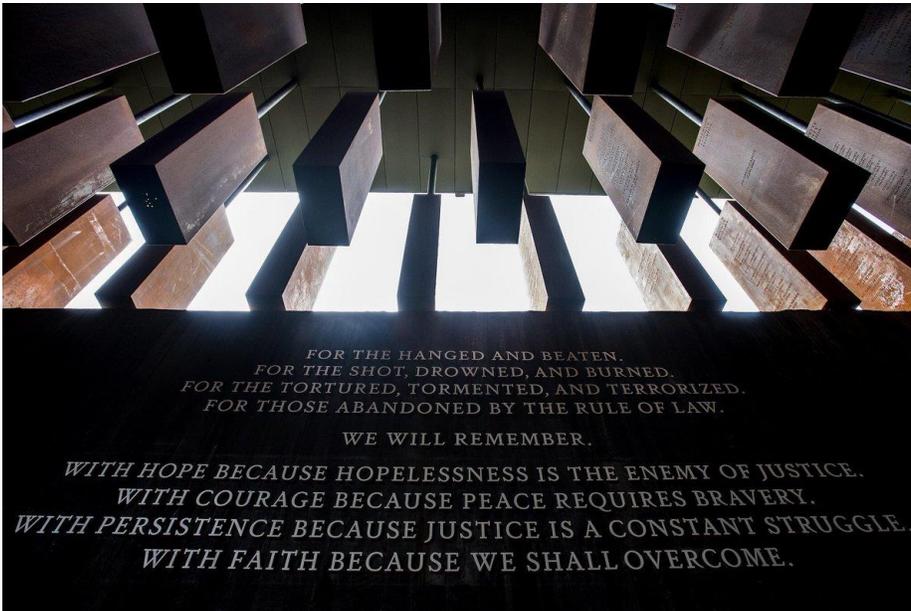
August 2022

Volume XXXVIII No. 5

Pastoral Ponderings

Some people say “If you’re not **angry**, you’re not paying attention.” Others say “if you’re not **depressed**, you’re not paying attention.” Perhaps you would choose another adjective – sad, discouraged, frightened – take your pick. The work of social justice has always been important at Emmanuel. It seems more important and even harder lately. The January 6 hearings, Supreme Court decisions against bodily autonomy for women and in favor of government-led prayer, the tragic loss of life to gun violence in Uvalde, Texas and several mass shootings since then – I have had conversations with several of you about each of these recent events. You **are** paying attention and you are angry, depressed, grieving, and/or frightened. I hear you. I feel the same way.

National Memorial for Peace and Justice



Last month, I was reminded of some good words often repeated by Bryan Stevenson, the founder of the Equal Justice Initiative. He says that **hopelessness is the enemy of justice**, and that **hope is our superpower**. Resignation, or acceptance of the status quo, robs us of the hope and energy for change. And so, while I may be angry and discouraged, I am also resolved to remain hopeful.

I hold to hope is by remembering others with far less privilege than I carry, who have been faithful and engaged for far longer than I have. Or I turn to favorite passages of Scripture. Today I am thinking of Romans 8:28 “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him,”(NIV) Or I sing songs like “We are a gentle angry people and we are singing for our lives”

continued...

I often preach on social justice themes. Sometimes, I am convinced that preaching on social justice at Emmanuel is like hauling water to the sea. You already know the centrality of justice within God’s character and concerns. But lately, I am thinking that right now we especially need to remember the words of the prophets about justice rolling down like mighty waters, and the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. We need to keep teaching and preaching love and justice, perhaps not with the primary intent of persuading others as much as so that we remain faithful. In the words of an old spiritual, let us “walk together children, don’t you get weary.”

Peace,
Kathy

Emmanuel has been awarded a grant of \$10,000 through **reKindle**, a congregational development program administered by Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. This grant initiative, which is underwritten by the Lily Endowment, began in 2021 to engage church leaders in a theologically informed strategy to rekindle congregational vitality in a post-Covid-19 era. Emmanuel is one of only ten churches from across the country and from several different denominations to receive this grant in 2022. A description of the grant recipients may be found [here](#)



The grantors summarized our multi-page application like this:

The past decade, and especially the past several years, has brought the realization to Emmanuel Baptist that they must look at significant change to be a continuing congregation of care and ministry. Emmanuel has an aging, but historic and architecturally significant, building that challenges their finances. The church’s urban location, with religious, ethnic and cultural diversity, is part of Emmanuel’s mission and identity. However, the tension between upkeep and mission has significantly increased as congregational resources diminish. Emmanuel Baptist wants to better understand how their message should be presented to the 21st century audience.

In other words, we are asking what God is calling us to do in our current ministry context. This is not a new question, but the pandemic has brought it into especially sharp relief. With the funding from this grant, we expect to bring in a consultant who has assisted many churches through internal discernment processes. **What we learn in this process will be incredibly important. We need congregation-wide participation. The consultant will design a number of different ways to listen to us, probably beginning in October. Please plan to engage as deeply as you can. More specific information is coming soon.**

As part of the grant, Columbia Seminary will gather representatives from each of the recipient churches for a conference on topics like congregational identity, dynamics and adaptation for thriving. Jean Burton and Pastor Kathy will attend this event in on the seminary campus in September.



Excavating Our Roots

Baptist History and the Origins of
White Supremacy in the United States



Alliance of Baptists Fall Gathering

November 10-12, 2022
Montgomery, Alabama

Ticket price: \$50 per person
Registration opens August 15
and closes October 21

The schedule of events and leadership are available [here](#)

We'll be gathering at the Legacy Museum, from Enslavement to Mass Incarceration created by the Equal Justice Initiative, founded by Bryan Stevenson. EJI works with communities that have been marginalized by poverty and discouraged by unequal treatment. It is committed to changing the narrative about race in the United States.

Check out the programming on our [event webpage](#), and check back for more information as it becomes available.

The Alliance of Baptists is a vibrant movement of people, faith communities and ministry partners who are deeply passionate about ecumenism, partnership in mission, relentless hospitality and racial and social justice.



Baptist Peace Fellowship Virtual Summer Conference Week August 19-28

Peace Camp is virtual again this year. Lots of events are planned including meetings including movie night and gatherings for children, youth, and business meeting. At the International Conference on Saturday, the keynoter will be Henna Baclagon, a Baptist peace activist from the Phillipines.

Get more information and register at

<https://www.bpfna.org/summerconference2022details>





FOCUS Worship Schedule

All services will be held at 10 a.m.
both in person and online

Aug. 7 - at Delmar Reformed (and via YouTube)
Sept. 4 - at Westminster Presbyterian (and via Zoom)
All are Welcome!



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



FOCUS Churches School Supply Drive

What to donate:

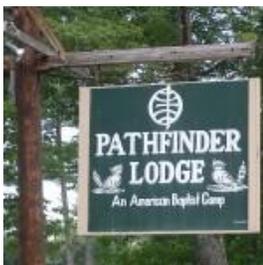
Backpacks, pencils, erasers, black/blue/red pens, crayons, markers, highlighters, folders, binders, notebooks wide/college ruled, composition books, pencil bags/boxes, scissors, glue sticks, rulers, dry erase markers, and more.

You may donate by check (FOCUS Churches *School Supplies*) or online at focuschurches.net

You may drop-off items at FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry July 18 to August 20.

Come to the Campfire!

The Malone's campfire evenings have been so popular that several have been held during the summer. Another is scheduled for August 12. Mark your calendars and join the fun! If you plan to attend, please let Marilyn know by email or at 518-312-8761.



Pathfinder Celebrates 75 Years!

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of Baptist camping in NY state! There will be a **special celebration at Pathfinder August 26-28**. You can rent a cabin or tent site and stay the weekend, or you can join for a full day of fun and memories on Saturday, August 26. You will need to register for the day's activities (including lunch) and/or the Brooks Barbeque Dinner. See the website -

www.vpccministries.org/pathfinder-lodge/pathfinder75

If you have questions, you may contact Marilyn Malone:
malonehome@aol.com.



Happy Birthday...

Elisabeth Scheu
 Bill Silverman
 Kimberly Norwood
 Sam Hill
 Brianna Garner
 Beverly Norwood
 Becky Klope
 Parmilla Allen
 Shamaal Ford
 Liselle LaFrance
 Karen Kendall



1st
 2nd
 5th
 8th
 7th
 22nd
 22nd
 23rd
 26th
 28th
 30th

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

Church Picnic



Two church family picnics are planned in the month of August. We'll gather at about noon, after our

morning worship at Emmanuel. Mark your calendars and join us on:

August 14 at the home of Michael Clement and Donald Heinz
August 28 at the Lahut's

Meat for the grill and beverages will be provided; please bring a dish to share and chairs or blanket for your seating. For directions, please be in touch with the respective hosts.

**Deadline for September MOSAIC:
 August 18**



Congratulations to *Elisabeth Scheu* on her graduation from Shaker High School. In the fall she will attend the University of Massachusetts Amherst studying nutrition with an education minor. We wish you all the best, Elisabeth!



Congratulations to *Molly Wilkerson*, who completed her residency in June and has joined the ranks of board-certified family physicians in California. In mid-August, she

will begin a new role on the faculty of Adventist Health Family Medicine Residency Program in Glendale, CA.



**Office Hours:
 9:00 to 1:00**



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