

THE MOSAIC

Published monthly by
EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

**275 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NY 12210**

Office: (518) 465-5161

office@emmanuelalbany.org

Summer 2023

Volume XXXIX No. 2

Pastoral Ponderings

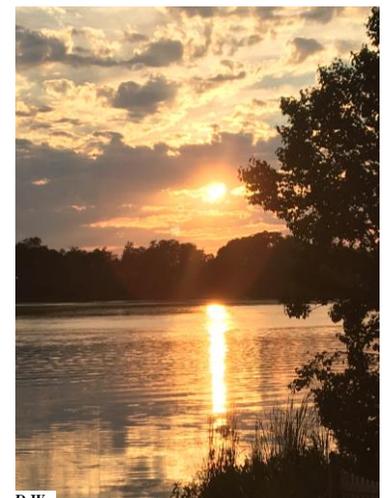
Friends, we are weary. We are creative and compassionate and wanting to be engaged in mission because that is who Emmanuel is, but we are also weary. According to the World Health Organization, the pandemic emergency is over, but we are going to be recovering from the effects of three years of world-wide disruption to every aspect of life for a long time.

We have work to do. We have received the report of the consultant and are taking the next steps to implement it. Our work includes regaining an outward focus, turning again to meet the spiritual and physical needs of our neighbors, after a time of turning inward during the pandemic. Our work includes gathering information from experts like architects and real estate developers and attorney as we consider the best stewardship of the building. It also involves coping with the strong emotions and differences of opinion that coincide with questions of change, especially when we have just lived through the change and upheaval of the last three years. None of this is easy and we are weary.

God's gift to weary people is the Sabbath. "Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy" This commandment has been interpreted to mean that Sundays are to be solemn and serious, definitely not occasions for fun. Through the centuries it has meant things like no working, no running, no carrying things, no card playing, no games of any kind, no laughter . . . on Sundays. But we must remember that this commandment was given to people who had been slaves in Egypt. What a blessing, what a relief, to be told after all those years of forced slave labor, that you could get a day off, that you should take a day off every week. It was not intended as a punishment, as some kind of test of how good they could be, but as relief, as a gift of time to be, to enjoy the goodness of life.

This summer we will rejoice in God's gift of holy time as a rest for our weariness. Two Sundays each month will be designated as Sabbath Days. For June, July and August, that means that there will not be worship at Emmanuel on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. On those weekends, there will be a fellowship activity instead. Each of those events is intended to help us enjoy the goodness of life and each other's company in a different way. Keep reading this newsletter for a detailed schedule and more thoughts on Sabbath-keeping. I'm looking forward to sharing sacred time with you on Sundays and other days this summer.

Peace, *Kathy*



D.W.

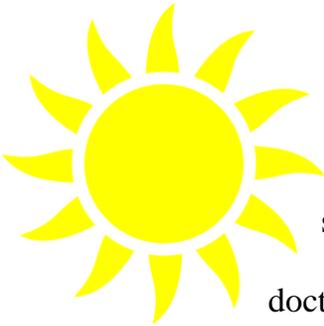


IT'S PICNIC TIME!

Join Emmanuel friends for our annual worship & picnic at Colonie Mohawk River Park on **Sunday, June 18 at 10:00**. There will not be a service at the church that day. If you are new to Emmanuel or haven't attended before, you can contact Karen Green or Andrea Carver for directions or for a ride.

At Emmanuel we like to eat! Hotdogs, hamburgers and beverages will be provided. During June, there will be a sign up sheet available. Please indicate if you plan to attend, if you will bring an appetizer, salad or dessert to share, and if you need a ride or directions.

The park opens at 10:00 am, and there are no gate fees. Everyone is welcome! Bring a lawn chair for worship. Invite friends to experience worship surrounded by nature and have fun and conversation with friends, old and new. If there are games you'd like to play, bring them along. Questions: contact Karen or Andrea.



FOCUS Summer Worship Schedule

Emmanuel is a founding member of the FOCUS Churches. Four times per year the covenant congregations worship together in one place. In the summer worship services, the host church provides Sunday morning worship from within its tradition and practices. Coming together across liturgical and doctrinal diversity enriches all of us and increases our appreciation for the wide stream of Christian experience. Every service will be offered in person and on a remote platform like Zoom or YouTube Live. Details about access to the livestream will be shared ahead of time on EBC-Announce.

July 2 First Presbyterian Church at 9:30 a.m.
362 State Street

August 6 Trinity United Methodist Church at 10:00 a.m.
235 Lark Street

September 3 Emmanuel Baptist Church at 10:00 a.m.
275 State Street

**Remember the
Food Pantry...**

bar soap
shampoo



Music at Emmanuel

The Bounty of Brahms Songs

June 4, 3:00 pm

**Sung by Bienvenida Baez, Melanie Shank, Eileen Mack, Lisa Burianek,
Elizabeth Lehmann, Sandra Schujman, Irina Tikhonenko, Brian Morris
and Rogerio Marx,**

with Michael Clement, pianist



The Emmanuel Summer Experience: Find Rest and Renewal on the Sabbath

Matthew 11:28-30 from The Message

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”

This summer the worship work group is asking our Emmanuel folks to reconnect to the concept of Sabbath. While worship remains a centerpiece of the Sabbath, we are looking to find that “real rest” that the Bible describes. We will do this by having some of the Sundays in the summer entirely devoted to the rest and renewal concept. On those Sundays there will be no worship at Emmanuel or on Zoom. Each of us can find their way to do what the Matthew text invites us to do: Take a real rest keeping company with God. There will be Emmanuel community events on the Saturdays where there is no worship.

Worship in a sanctuary (ours or one of the FOCUS Church’s) on the first, third and fifth Sundays of the month. Practice Sabbath on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, which includes a restful, restorative, re-creational activity of your choosing and no corporate worship at Emmanuel. Communal fellowship events will be offered on those second and fourth weekends.

Ideas for Ways to Honor the Sabbath Gift

- Sleep late without guilt.
- Make brunch for everyone in your household and enjoy it together leisurely.
- Get up while it is still dark. Go to your favorite peaceful place and watch the sunrise. Then go home and take a nap.
- Sit near a body of water, watch, listen, breathe, just be. (OK go fishing, if that’s your thing.)
- Read a book outdoors in a hammock until you fall asleep
- Engage in a social media fast or an electronic device fast.
- Pick fresh vegetables in your own garden or a U-Pick place and make a healthy dinner for yourself or someone else.
- Take a hike.
- Spend time with someone who is part of another generation.
- Engage in something creative -- try watercolors, finger paints, wood-working, knitting or other needlework, photography, music, adult or children’s coloring books.
- Write an old-fashioned letter to someone who will enjoy the gift of receiving it.
- Stay up late and watch the stars on Saturday night. Then sleep in Sunday morning.



June

June 4 – Worship at EBC, 10:00 a.m. Children’s Sunday

June 10 – Pride month Movie Night at Emmanuel, 7:00 p.m.

Come watch “*To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar*”

It is a 1995 American road comedy film starring Wesley Snipes, Swayze, and John Leguizamo as three New York City drag queens who embark on a road trip. The film was notable for being the first major Hollywood studio movie to center on drag queens. Rated PG-13

June 11 – Sabbath Day: No church service but you might want to check out the Pride Festival. Emmanuel will practice Sabbath on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, which includes a restful, restorative, re-creational activity of your choosing and no corporate worship at Emmanuel. There will be no service at the church or by Zoom.

June 18 – Church Picnic Worship at Colonie Town Park (71 Schermerhorn Rd., Cohoes)
Gather at 10:00 a.m. Zoom Worship begins at 10:30

June 25 – Sabbath Day at the Lahut’s Home, 11:00 a.m.m – 3:00 p.m.

Potluck lunch starts at 12:30 or 1:00. Bring salad, appetizer, or dessert to accompany meat from the grill which is provided. Enjoy guided trail walks, playground for young children, above ground pool for the adventurous as the water is likely to be chilly.



Celebrate Pride...

Sunday, June 11

Parade Line-up at 11 a.m.

EBC representatives will be there to hold a place;

Come and join us after church!

Parade Steps off at Noon

Festival continues (music, food, vendors, people-watching) until 5 pm

Speak with Ruth Pushee for more information.

An ancient legend says that when the Law was given to the children of Israel, God told them that if they would observe the commands, they would receive one of God’s most precious possessions. They asked what it was. God replied, “the world to come.” When they asked for an earthly example of the world to come, God said, “The Sabbath is an example of the world to come.”

July



July 2 – FOCUS Worship at First Presbyterian Church, **9:30 a.m.**

July 8 – Family Movie Night at Emmanuel, 5:30 p.m.

Join us for the movie “Inside Out”. This is a PG movie about Riley being uprooted from her Midwest life and moved to San Francisco, her emotions - Joy, Fear, Anger, Disgust and Sadness - conflict on how best to navigate a new city, house, and school. This film is for everyone! And... pizza will be served!

July 9 – Sabbath Day: No church service

Emmanuel will practice Sabbath on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, which includes a restful, restorative, re-creational activity of your choosing and no corporate worship at Emmanuel. There will be no service at the church or by Zoom.

July 16 – Worship at EBC followed by a potluck picnic at the Green’s later in the afternoon.

July 22 – Hudson River Walk

Come meet us at the Corning Preserve in Albany where we will take a gentle walk along the Hudson. We will learn about the original Water people, their ways and participate in some of their prayers. We will be looking out for Eagles on our walk!

July 23 – Sabbath Day: No church service

Emmanuel will practice Sabbath on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, which includes a restful, restorative, re-creational activity of your choosing and no corporate worship at Emmanuel. There will be no service at the church or by Zoom.

July 30 – Worship at EBC



August

August 6 – FOCUS Worship at Trinity United Methodist Church at **10:00 a.m.**

August 12 – A fun fellowship activity is in the works. More information coming soon.

August 13 – Sabbath Day: No church service

Emmanuel will practice Sabbath on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, which includes a restful, restorative, re-creational activity of your choosing and no corporate worship at Emmanuel. There will be no service at the church or by Zoom.

August 20 – Worship at EBC

August 26 -- *Dance Your Dance Arts @ 275 State, 7:00 p.m.*

Join us for an evening of music with a dance theme offered by the Emmanuel Singers and special guests. We'll gather on the front steps to enjoy the summer air and each other's company and lots of lively sound. Light refreshments will be provided. Please bring a lawn chair.

August 27 – Sabbath Day: No church service

Emmanuel will practice Sabbath on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, which includes a restful, restorative, re-creational activity of your choosing and no corporate worship at Emmanuel. There will be no service at the church or by Zoom.

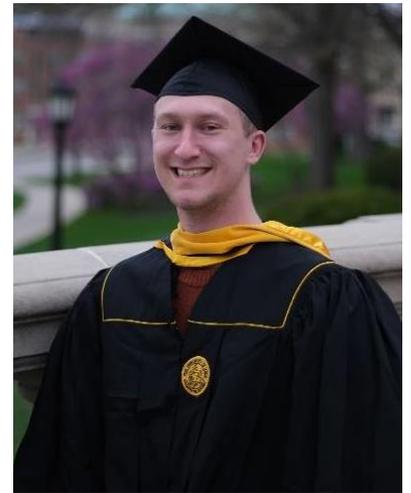
Congratulations, Graduates!

Neeqa Noor earned her Masters of Physician Assistant Studies from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in December and passed her board exams in February. She is enjoying a short break from work and school before seeking employment as a Physicians Assistant in the Capital District.



Silas Klope is graduating from high school one year early at the age of 17. He says “I am excited to dedicate more time towards pursuing my passion for video editing. I’ve been editing for a YouTuber starting this year, I am eager to continue to work with others to grow my skills while also investing time in developing my personal content in the long term. With almost 9 years of video-making experience and all of them having some, if maybe basic in the first few years, level of editing I am confident that I have the expertise to take on this exciting new chapter in my life.”

Aidan Chaffin graduated from the University of Iowa on May 12 with a Master of Science degree in Actuarial Science. In June he will start a new job in Baltimore, MD with Transamerica as an actuary.



Erin Wilkerson received the Doctor of Physical Therapy from Boston University on May 21. She expects to spend the next year in Chicago working as a physical therapist and then hopes to move back to Boston to pursue a PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences.



Summer begins: June 21!
Office hours: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Invitation to Remember

by Mark Chaffin



When I was a Seventh-Day Adventist, I learned a great deal about the Sabbath experience. Sabbath comes from “Shabbat,” which means “to cease working” or “to rest.” God first issues this invitation as a day to remember at the creation. Before humans did anything they were invited to enjoy time off with their Creator. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel calls the Sabbath a “Palace in time,” a soul experience to be present to what is most important. It is a day Jesus said, “was made for humankind,” a day the Torah says is blessed and consecrated. I came to see sabbath as a day for resting in grace because it is the gift of a day of freedom. Scripture reminds us that Israel was to commemorate its liberation from Egypt by observing the Sabbath; weekly they were to remember it. This was a community and family observance: one's family, one's livestock, the alien in one's town all experience the divine blessing of rest, all were to know its blessing of freedom from labor to be restored in body, mind, and spirit!

Sabbath in the 21st century must not only look back but also around to today. The intrinsic blessing of Sabbath can be experienced not only in our expressed times of worship, but also in other ways of experiencing blessing and freedom. This may be within the great outdoors in communion with nature, with the family in special moments together, on mini-vacations for refreshment away from our labors. In this way we may know a holistic wellness that comes from being intentional about remembering, resting, and receiving sabbath's inherent blessing. Sabbath keeping can become a valuable spiritual practice on a weekly, daily, or moment by moment basis as needed.

Jews today still welcome the Sabbath as the “queen,” it is the day for refreshment and re-souling oneself for the week to come. It is a special time for sharing love, above all conjugal love. It is a time for good eating, the week's finest food and best wine, pleasant candlelight enjoyed in an unhurried manner. Above all it is a day for joy, the joy of family companionship that expresses the relational intimacy and blessing of God that the creation event records.

How can we experience these deeper dimensions of resting in order that we may experience what the Divine Creator intended? It is first by being intentional, for the Sabbath “was last in creation and first in intention” the rabbis say. We experience it by being creative, being reminded of what my professor of preaching and worship would say, “Never do anything always,” change things up regularly so that the experience is ever fresh. We also experience Sabbath by remembering that it is God's special intention for us to experience freedom in all its dimensions: relationally, socially, economically, and especially environmentally as a way to experience the beauty of the creation.

Time away from gathered worship can open new paths in our sabbath experience and spiritual practice of communion with God. In the coming Emmanuel Summer Experience, we will have opportunities to plan several of our own individual sabbath experiences. Let us use these opportunities not just to sleep-in but to experience the deeper rest of human freedom that God offers.

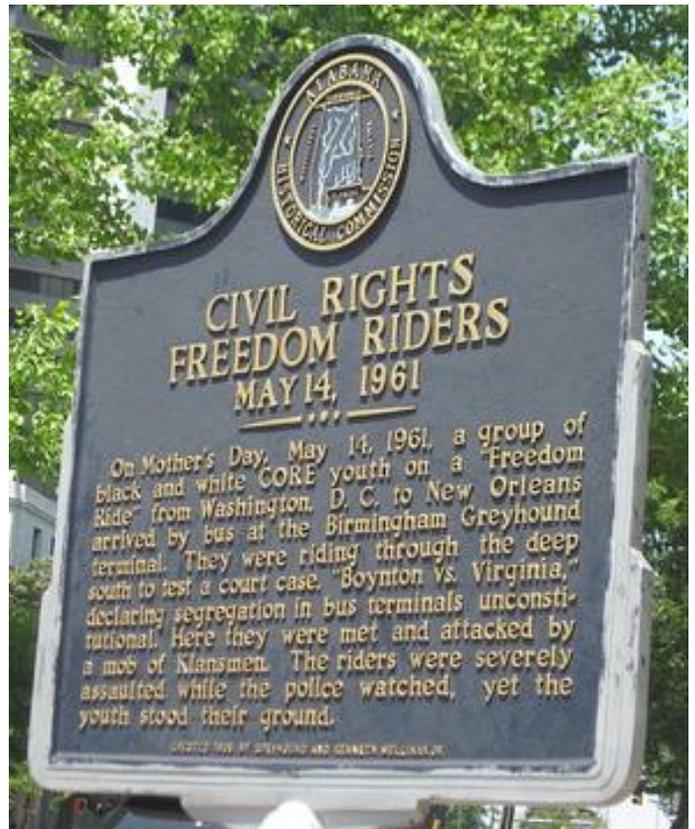


Photo: D. Wilburn

Civil Rights Pilgrimage Planned

Discrimination is baked into our culture. It includes personal attitudes as well as policies of our government. Such discrimination rode rampant during slavery times, and it has continued in one form or another since the Civil War.

This coming February 2024, during school vacation, a group from Emmanuel will confront this history with a trip to Atlanta, Birmingham and Montgomery. We will worship at Ebenezer Baptist Church, stand in the squares where enslaved people were sold, and immerse ourselves in the roots of this heritage. If you are interested in joining this trip, please speak with Jean Burton. Also please join in fundraising activities this summer and fall.



If you are unable to make this pilgrimage, please support those who will be going. One of our first events will be at the September FOCUS service at Emmanuel when we will hold a plant sale and pottery sale. (Do you have a craft you would like included?). We hope many young people as well as adults will make this trip and bring an enriching spirit of inclusion when they return to Emmanuel.

ReKindle Update



Listening to ideas about Emmanuel's future, the Executive Team has begun to reach out to NYS Council of Churches. They will provide an assessment of our building's potential by employing an engineer, architect, and attorney, to determine the possible future uses of our building.

In Congregational Meetings we discussed possible mission initiatives that could be achieved by renovating our buildings. This is an exploration phase. The ET will report back to the congregation periodically. Any and all decisions will come before the congregation.



CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

The Albany CROP Hunger Walk was May 7. Thanks to those who walked (Jean Burton, Edith Leet, Tony and Marilyn Malone, Judah Appe, Brian Hughes, Ardella Johnson, Veronica Torian, Chelah Collins and Jasmine, Nancy Horan), and to all who supported us. So far the total raised by team Emmanuel is \$1945! 25% of all funds raised supports local food pantries and soup kitchens and the remainder goes to Church World Service hunger relief and development programs around the world.



Happy Birthday...

Maria Townes Covington	3 rd
Donna Brown	8 th
Danielle Johnson	9 th
Barbara Lahut	9 th
Bob Green	10 th
Sarah Malone	13 th
Edie Simpson	17 th
Robin Bray	18 th
Adele LaBarge	19 th
Erin Wilkerson	19 th
Ken Cole	19 th
Edith Leet	29 th



MaKayla Smith	1 st
Kevin Cole	6 th
Jim Ketcham	8 th
Nancy Horan	11 th
Andrea Carver	14 th
TJ Collins	14 th
Kendra Lahut	14 th
Makendra Burns	16 th
Silas Klope	20 th



Rebecca Lamar	21 st
Jim Wilkerson	23 rd
Esther Moore	26 th
Curtis Klope	26 th
Robert Smith	27 th
Eliza Covington	28 th
Amber Collins	31 st

Elisabeth Scheu	1 st
Bill Silverman	nd
Kimberly Norwood	5 th
Brianna Garner	7 th
Sam Hill	8 th
Sadie Chaffin	9 th
Beverly Norwood	22 nd
Becky Klope	22 nd
Parmilla Allen	23 rd
Liselle LaFrance	28 th
Karen Kendall	30 th



Emmanuel Baptist Church
275 State St.
Albany, NY 12210

