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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

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The World Mission Offering is being taken in October at Emmanuel. It is our opportunity to assist our missionaries in their efforts across the earth. This year we are planning to donate the offering to our good friends in mission, Ketley and Vitale Pierre and their work with the Haitian population in the Dominican Republic. Ketley recently finished treatment for cancer and is back full force in her work. Here is a piece from a recent newsletter:

**“You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus;”
2 Timothy 2:1 (NRSV)**

After 30 years in ministry as a Global Servant, I (Ketley) never imagined how the best in ministry was yet to come. Yes, I am Danzando en una Nueva Temporada (Dancing in a New Season), as Christine D’Clario’s sings in “Danzando.” While Vital and I continue in God’s ministry here in the Dominican Republic, our physical strength may decrease; but God’s strength increases and manifests itself in amazing ways. This brings us freedom to continue in God’s work until He calls us home for eternity.

Since our last journal (December 2022), we have extended the same grace that we have received from the Lord, and the Holy Spirit continues to increase His awesome presence to each person that we come in contact with. Here are some of the ways we have seen God at work:

In Chaplaincy

- Accompaniment of families in grief
- Accompaniment of patients with illnesses
- Accompaniment of workers at the Good Samaritan Hospital
- Accompaniment of Monique and Michaelle in ministry

At the Community Center

- A central place for unity: churches and community
- Building relationships through helping Haitians to be legal in the DR
- The roof is completed on the 3rd floor, and the electricity is almost done

So you can see they are busy on many fronts and always Enthusiastic about the Lord. When you give, remember their enthusiasm! You can give online through the church website or on any Sunday or by sending a check to the church.

Ketley & Vitale Pierre



Pastoral Ponderings

On a beautiful Friday evening, Jim and I went up to Queensbury to see the Adirondack Air Balloon Festival. Neither of us had ever been that close to a hot air balloon before. Nearly 90 balloons launched close to sunset. Light winds kept them aloft but also close. Those that rose first hovered over head or drifted nearby as others soared up to join up. At intervals, we could hear the burners pulsing and see the flames spurting up. It was a wonder-filled spectacle of sight and sound. We enjoyed it so much that we got up at 4:30 the next morning to return for the sunrise launch which was also amazing. This was a brand new experience for us. We chose to attend almost on a whim. Two more mass launches planned for the next sunset and sunrise were ultimately cancelled because of weather. Knowing that, we were even more grateful for our decision to make the effort to be there when we had been.



Last month we launched a new worship pattern. I preached on September 3rd and 17th. On September 10th and 24th, instead of listening to a sermon, people broke into conversation groups to discuss topics like grace, forgiveness, and how to love someone who hurt you. In some groups, there was vulnerability and deep sharing. In others, people were uncomfortable with what was being asked of them. This is the nature of change. It offers both gifts and challenges. Whether we like it or not, change is a part of life. It seems to be being thrust upon us almost faster than we can absorb these days. Whether we embrace it or endure it, change is not going away. To the best of our ability, Emmanuel is choosing to embrace change on many levels.



In terms of changes to worship, there will be a variety of elements in each season. A different small team of people is planning worship with me across a month or a season. The October team has a different approach from the September team. Don't expect small group reflections in October; anticipate testimonies from within and beyond Emmanuel instead. November will bring a dynamic guest preacher on the second Sunday and the start of Advent on the fourth.

You may embrace this change in a couple of ways. First, you may show up for worship with an attitude of expectancy. Be intentional about being receptive to the good surprises or insights or experiences of God's presence that might happen. Second, you may help to plan worship for all of us.

Being actively involved in shaping the change may help to blunt our sense of loss or fear. There is a Worship Team for each season. The Advent Team will meet on October 10. The Epiphany Team (planning for January 7-February 11) will meet in November. The Lent Team (planning for February 14-March 31) will meet in early January. **Please let me know now which of those teams you wish to join so that I can contact you as I set up our gatherings.**

Thank you for embracing the opportunities that are ours in this time even though they may require difficult change. I trust that many of them will turn out to be wonder-filled surprises, and we will be grateful to have shown up.

Peace,
Kathy



Our mid-October worship series reminds us that we have been entrusted with the management of precious resources. We find ourselves within the Kingdom of God and within the community of Emmanuel at this moment in time – a time when crises and opportunities abound. What will we give to God in such a time as this?

October 8 – Gratitude for the Past Ecclesiastes 3:11, John 1:1-5

Be present to honor the gift of God's good creation cherished by generations from the beginning of time. We will hear from Emmanuel members at various life stages with stories of their gratitude for this community.

October 15 – Purpose in the Present Esther 4:1-15

Pastor Kathy's sermon will recall the story of Ester, who became an instrument of God's deliverance from despair and death when she recognized she had more power than she realized.

October 22 – Courage for the Future Galatians 6:9-10

We have questions about the ministries to which we are being called and the people to whom we are being sent and about the wisest management of the resource that is our building. The Rev. Jerrod Hugenot joins us on this Sunday to share stories of other churches who are boldly repurposing their buildings to support new visions and missions.

Blessing of the Animals

**Sunday, October 29 at 10:00 a.m.
front parking area**

Our new worship pattern invites us to do something special on the four times per year when there are five Sundays in a month. The first such opportunity is October 29, and we are taking worship outdoors! We are affirming the bonds between humans and animals which is also a celebration of the goodness of God's creation.



Bring your live pets or pictures of animals or beloved stuffed animals. Invite your friends who are pet-owners or animal-lovers or veterinarians or farmers or anyone who works with animals. Live pets need to be on a leash or in a carrier and under the control of their human at all times.

Prophetic Preaching from a Womanist Perspective

On Wednesday, October 18, at 7 p.m. on Zoom, Minister Alexis Tardy will present an overview of prophetic preaching from a Womanist perspective. She is an organizer and THRIVE Coordinator for the Alliance of Baptists, the organization that sponsors the THRIVE project we participate in. To register for this event, go to <https://allianceofbaptists.org/events/>. After the presentation, we will have a discussion about what we have heard. To attend this discussion, please use this link:



Topic: Adult Faith Formation

Time: 7 pm October 18

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ministrelife.zoom.us/j/94740928295?pwd=R1RrNk5IdTEveXp0VnVaSmNaSWF4QT09>

Meeting ID: 947 4092 8295 Password: DISCIPLE

The Adult Faith Formation committee is discussing other topics for adult programs for the fall and winter. They include health proxies, medical power of attorney, end of life concerns, hospice care, and planned giving. If you have topics that you would like to have a program on, please contact Mark Chaffin, waveriderk1@hotmail.com; Jim Ketcham jketcham54@gmail.com, or Edith Leet, eleet100@gmail.com

Bible Study Opportunities Abound

Two opportunities for weekly Bible studies on Zoom are open to you, and you are cordially invited to attend one or both. On Wednesdays at 1 p.m., Emmanuel holds its Bible study, which focuses on Bible passages that will be read in church the next Sunday. On Tuesdays at noon,

First Church in Albany hosts its study, which this fall will be discussions on the book *Why Did Jesus, Moses, Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road?* by Brian McLaren. McLaren also wrote the book *Do I Stay Christian?*, which was the focus of an adult discussion group at Emmanuel last spring.

If you are interested in either or both of these studies, please contact Edith Leet, 518-482-6612 or eleet100@gmail.com to be put on the mailing list and to receive the Zoom links for each study. Both groups have lively discussions, with much sharing of personal experiences and thoughtful ideas. Your input would be most welcome.

An Emmanuel Update

Dear Friends,

Last year we spent, as a congregation, a great deal of time, money and thought about the direction of our ministry and the future of our building. The Executive Team continues to delve into these complicated and intertwined issues.

Over the summer and now into the program year we have tried new formats for worship. In the summer we worshiped with FOCUS and held various fellowship events. In September we shifted Pastor Kathy's time so she preaches twice a month and a worship team is creating other experiences on the other Sundays. Kathy will use that time to give more leadership to our outreach efforts. Our long history with emphasis on serving the hungry continues as we are expanding portions of our building for the FOCUS Food Pantry. All of this is happening as we prepare to send a group of adults and youth on a Civil Right Pilgrimage in February.

Seeking a building assessment, we have reached out to the NYS Council of Churches, to Business for Good and to Springbrook (formerly the Upstate Baptist Home). Responses from these organizations have been spotty and halting, but seems to be progressing. No decisions have been made and so far not much further to report.

The Congregational Meeting after worship on October 22 will be an opportunity to share any further progress on these efforts and to listen to each other as we walk this path together.

-- Jean Burton



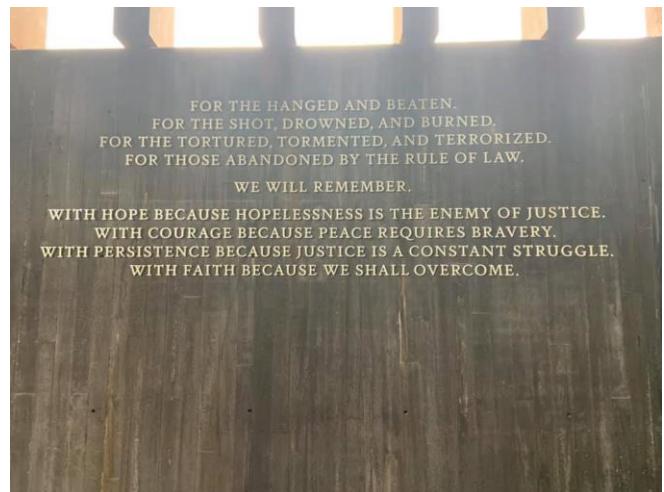
Pastoral Relations Meeting Scheduled

The Pastoral Relations Committee will be meeting with Pastor Kathy on October 29. Our main job is to maintain good communication between the congregation and the pastor. Topics likely to be on the agenda for this meeting include recent changes to worship because of the decision to re-allocate the pastor's hours and ministry priorities, compensation for the next budget year, and logistics around her sabbatical in the summer of 2024.

We would like to hear from you. What concerns, questions or affirmations do you have about these issues or any others? Please consider these questions and share your answers with a member of the Pastoral Relations Committee (Jean Burton, Tony Malone, Karen Green, Sam Hill, Curtis Klope, Edith Leet, and Maria Townes-Covington) or directly with Pastor Kathy by October 22. Your input is very important.

Civil Rights Pilgrimage Update

By now you know that there's a Civil Rights Pilgrimage in February. Twenty-one Emmanuelites will be making the trip to Atlanta, Birmingham, Selma, Montgomery and Tuskegee. We are excited about the prospect of being fully present in places we may only know from history books and/or from last week's news. We've called it a Pilgrimage, but we could also call it a Reverse Mission Trip. We will not leave Albany with material gifts and willingness to serve, as we have done on trips to Nicaragua or the Dominican Republic. Instead, we will go with an intentional posture of receiving. We hope to receive important stories from the people we will meet. We hope to create lasting, transformative memories of our racial history, more than can be obtained from reading books and watching movies. We hope to receive insights and encouragement from each other in our shared learning. We are not expecting to give, but to receive, and to return to Emmanuel equipped to share, so that all our hearts and minds may be more staunchly engaged in anti-racism work.



The group representing Emmanuel is diverse in many ways. It includes 16 adults and 5 young people. The young ones range in age from 11 to 17. The adults are from 30-something to 70-something. Six of us are people of color. Fifteen are white. Among the pilgrims are many who have been members for decades and 5 people who have come to Emmanuel within the last year. Our households vary in income, but we are all in this together.

We all have our parts to play on this trip, even those who will only journey in spirit. Your part, if you choose to accept it, is on the support team – to cover us in prayer, encouragement and monetary gifts. Your donations of any size are most welcome and will be gratefully received. Checks may be written to Emmanuel Baptist Church with *Pilgrimage* in the memo line or you may give at the church website <https://www.emmanuelalbany.net/giving> and select *Thrive Civil Rights Pilgrimage* from the drop down menu.



Guide to Giving to Emmanuel from Ruth Pushee, Financial Secretary

One of the cool things to come out of the COVID pandemic was that Emmanuel had to get creative with ways to receive the tithes and offerings of our members. We currently have several different opportunities for you to provide your gifts in support of our church.

- Putting cash, coin, or check into the Offering Plates on the Communion Table at the front of the sanctuary. (Cash or coin in an envelope with your name on it will be attributed to you on your year-end report.)
- Send a check to the church office at 275 State St., Albany, NY 12110, ATTN: Financial Secretary.
- Give online through your bank or credit union by setting up Emmanuel Baptist Church as a payee. (**NOTE:** If desired, this can usually be set up as a recurring payment, so you don't ever need to think about it again!)
- Give online using the church website. This is a fantastic and easy way to give to Emmanuel. The church receives the funds automatically from the online portal.
 - **NOTE:** The church pays a fee for every transaction. We have found this to be well worth the cost. BUT – you can choose to Cover Fees. As an example.
 - If you give \$100 and do NOT check the Cover Fees box, then the church receives about \$97, depending on the method of payment.
 - If you give \$100 and DO check the Cover Fees box, then:
 - A total of \$103 (or so, depending on the method of payment) is charged to your card/account.
 - The Church receives \$100.
 - Go to www.emmanuelalbany.org.
 - Click on Giving and choose Online Giving.
 - Click the Give to EBC button.
 - Enter the dollar amount you wish to give in the Give box.
 - Choose the program/offering you wish to give to by clicking on the drop-down arrow in the To field. The most common is to choose "Offering." That is for general budget/tithe.
 - NOTE: The items in this drop-down menu will change as programs (especially Special Offerings such as One Great Hour of Sharing or America for Christ) come in and out of season.
 - Enter your name/bank or credit information/etc.
 - Choose to Cover Fees if desired.



Save the Date

Sunday, November 12

The Rev. Elijah Zehyoue, co-director of the Alliance of Baptists, will preach in worship on Sunday morning at 10 a.m. He is a dynamic, passionate preacher. You will not want to miss it. Stick around for the potluck lunch afterwards.

That evening, at 6:30 p.m. the church will host a community-wide presentation on his anti-racist work. The night will end with dessert served by members of the Civil Rights Pilgrimage. Mark your calendars now. More details coming soon.

Advent Team to Meet

The first meeting of the 2023 Advent Team is on October 10 at 1:00 p.m. in the church parlor. This Team is primarily responsible for planning worship on two Sundays in the season where there won't be a sermon. Often this team chooses to develop activities beyond Sunday morning which enrich our communal enjoyment of the Advent/Christmas season. To join the team, please contact Pastor Kathy.



Happy Birthday...

Jasmine Smith
Marilyn Malone
Warren Burton
Bien Baez
Julie Shaw
Madeline Green
Alivia Collins
Chukwuma Asala



6th
6th
6th
11th
13th
23rd
27th
30th

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



Worship Leaders & Communion Servers are needed.

Won't you consider serving in this way? A signup sheet is available in Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, you may speak with Pastor Kathy.



**October 9:
Church Office Closed**

MOSAIC Deadline:

October 18

Congregational Meeting:
October 22 following worship



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



Apples, apples everywhere...



A number of Emmanuel folks joined together for fun and fund-raising, picking apples and later turning them into delicious pies to sell. Proceeds from the project support the Civil Rights Pilgrimage coming up in February.



Come
and
walk



THE LABYRINTH

at First
Presbyterian
Church

11AM-2PM & 5-7PM

362 STATE ST
ALBANY

Monthly
on the
3rd Thursday

All are welcome!
WWW.FIRSTPRESALBANY.ORG

Emmanuel Baptist Church
275 State St.
Albany, NY 12210



Photo: D. Wilburn