

THE MOSAIC

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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

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Pastoral Ponderings



I first attempted to take a sabbatical in 2018. When our application for a clergy grant renewal was declined, we decided to try one more time, which postponed the sabbatical until 2019. At that time, way back in 2017, you and I entered into an agreement that I would have another sabbatical in 2024. I began as pastor here in 2010. The thinking was that I would experience two renewal leaves across 14 years of service, which averages out to one for every seven years, a traditional Sabbath approach.

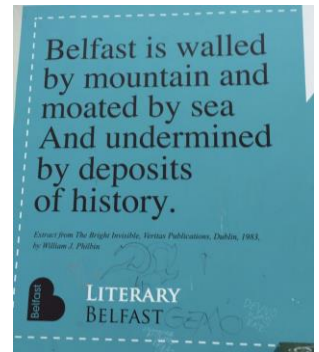
I have always appreciated that thoughtfulness. None of us could have anticipated that a world-wide pandemic would change the landscape so thoroughly between 2017 and now. That has only upped the ante of how truly welcome and necessary this renewal is. Clergy are not exempt from the pressures that led to the Great Resignation. In early 2021, the Barna group reported that 29% of pastors had considered quitting full-time ministry within the last 12 months. By November that year, the number had risen to 38%. The last statistic I saw was 42% reported by Barna in March 2022. I personally knew several colleagues who either took early retirement or went into other vocations in the immediate aftermath of pandemic.

I never wanted to quit and felt no diminishment of my sense of call to Emmanuel. However, more than a year ago, I began to identify some warning signs of burn-out in myself. We are all weary, all working to regain our equilibrium as the changes keep coming at us, and we struggle to keep up. Recognizing the privilege inherent in being afforded the dedicated time for rest and recovery, I can only respond with gratitude and the commitment to use it for my well-being and yours.

Just as we are starting to pose extremely important questions about our purpose and our building, I am departing for a while. That may seem like poor timing. On the other hand, my absence enables EBC's capable leadership the freedom to start exploring paths for decisions which are ultimately the congregation's to make. The building team and the vision team will meet through the summer, and I will jump right back on board in September.

continued...

Sabbatical begins on May 13. I return to work on September 3. The on-ramp to sabbatical is the Festival of Homiletics which I will attend in Pittsburgh starting May 13. As we laid our plans, Jim and I anticipated one major trip. It includes a week-long retreat, led by Gareth Higgins and focused on the peacebuilding work in Northern Ireland. Gareth was the founding director of the Wild Goose Festival. He grew up in Belfast, during the height of the Protestant-Catholic Troubles. As a young adult, he was active in ecumenical peace-making. On the retreat, we will experience landscape and music, rest and walking, silence and conversation with other retreat participants and grass roots peace activists, community leaders and artists all seeking positive change. We will spend a second week in Scotland on our own, with time on Iona and Orkney.



Two more unanticipated adventures have fallen into our laps. Molly invited us to spend a week in Italy with her as she attends a friend's wedding in Lake Como. We will visit Venice and the Dolomites as well. Contrary to our expectations last fall, my father seems well enough to travel this summer, so Jim and I will join my father and my brother on a cruise from Thunder Bay, Ontario to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, traversing Lake Superior and Lake Michigan. We will also have several weeks at home, during which I want to catch up on yardwork and household projects and immerse myself in days of deferred reading. My intention is to return to you with renewed creativity and energy and deeper appreciation for the joyful, resilient community I already know you to be.



Peace,
Kathy

Meet our Sabbatical Pastor

The Rev. Katy Stenta has worked in the greater church for 20 years, and previously served as pastor of New Covenant Presbyterian Church for 13. Pastor Katy is currently Vice Moderator for Albany Presbytery, and is excited to serve as Sabbatical Pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Albany this summer. She is on the Visioning board for NextChurch. She will graduate with her Doctorate in Creative Writing as a Public Theologian from Mr. Roger's alma mater Pittsburgh Theological Seminary at the end of May 2024. Katy's thesis is on writing accessible, contextual and culturally relevant prayers. She also leads prayer and writing zoom workshops.

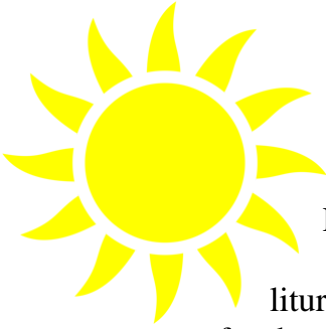


Be sure to be present in worship on May 12 to greet Pastor Katy and bid farewell to Pastor Kathy.

New "Vision Team" to Hold First Meeting

By a unanimous vote on April 21, Emmanuel members approved a resolution to use up to \$5,000 to enable a Vision Team to develop a process that will help the congregation define its vision for the future. A key question that may guide the team's work is "What is the purpose of EBC?"

Members of the Vision Team are Andrea Carver, Ellen Corcoran, Brian Hughes, Jim Ketcham, Edith Leet, and Kathy Moore, with Jean Burton *ex officio*. The Vision Team will hold its first meeting at Emmanuel on **Tuesday, May 7, 4:30 pm**. All who are part of the Emmanuel congregation are welcome to attend. (EL)



FOCUS Summer Worship Schedule

Emmanuel is a founding member of the FOCUS Churches of Albany, and four times a year the covenant congregations worship together in one place. For these combined experiences 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. Services 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. Mark your calendars now!

All services will be at 10:00 a.m.

- July 7** Drive-in Worship at First Church Reformed
110 North Pearl St.
- August 4** Delmar Reformed Church
386 Delaware Ave., Delmar
- September 1** Westminster Presbyterian Church
85 Chestnut St.

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

Happy Birthday...

Maria 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
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	2 nd
Joe Burns	5 th
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
Janet Appe	29 th
Karen Kendall	30 th



CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

Sunday May 5th
at 12:30

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
25 Hackett Blvd, Albany

There is still time to support this cause. Sign up as a walker, sponsor Emmanuel's team, pray for the event. Emmanuel's Team includes Jean Burton, Jan Curtis, Brian Hughes, Nancy Horan, Adella Johnson, Edith Leet, Angela Neal, Camille Wing. Your contribution helps provide food and water for people in need both in the Albany area and internationally. Please make checks out to CWS/CROP. If you have any questions, you may contact Brian Hughes.



Marchers, Petitions Demand Justice for the Poor

On March 2, seven people — Mike Asbury, Jean Burton, Mark Chaffin, Finnian Craine, Nancy and Richard Horan, and Edith Leet – from our Emmanuel family took part in the Poor People's Campaign march to take demands for justice for the poor to our elected officials. The demonstration was part of a nation-wide effort that saw marches in 22 state capitols.



Copies of several of the signs they carried were then taken to Fellowship Hall, where a petition was placed under each sign saying "I Agree. Please Make It So!" Later those petitions were taken to our federal, state, and local elected officials: Governor Kathy Hochul, State Assemblywoman Pat Fahy, State Assemblyman John McDonald, State Senator Neil Breslin, Congressman Paul Tonko, U.S. Senators Chuck Schumer and Elise Stefanik, and Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan. Each of those officials bear responsibility for constructing the budgets and legislation that can bring justice to the people being advocated for.

The Poor People's Campaign is "A National Call for Moral Revival." Its intent is to continue the work begun by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. before his assassination. For more information, visit their website at <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org>. (EL)



Sunday, June 9, 2pm

Music at Emmanuel presents:

Clarinet and Piano Duos

Joseph Rutkowski, clarinet

Michael Clement, piano

Admission Free, donations appreciated



Worship Leaders and Communion Servers

are needed for upcoming Sundays.

Won't you consider helping in this way?

Signup sheets are available in Fellowship Hall.



Church Office
Closed: May 27



Let's talk about Christian Camping at Pathfinder!

There are camp sessions for children and youth, programs for adults and families and opportunities to serve for a day, or a week, or work on staff for the summer. Check out the information below and on their website.

Of special note is the **Youth Retreat, May 17-19, "Emerge Uncharted**, an expedition into identity, purpose and

belonging " for grades 7 through college. The band this year is from Tabernacle Baptist church, and the women of that church will be cooking their traditional Karen food for the Saturday night dinner. Cost is only \$125 for youth and \$75 for adult advisors. Plus, Emmanuel has funds in our youth account to pay a considerable portion of this cost.

CAMP PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:



Especially for YOUTH

Youth retreat is May 17-19, for grades 7 through college. Special registration discounts for Emmanuel: registration fee for youth \$25; adult advisors, FREE Registrations are due May 4.

Leadership Training – 7/7-9, ages 15-18 \$275

Valuable leadership skills applicable to future roles in church, education, employment, and community

Lifeguard training – 7/5-7, ages 15 and up \$300

Includes all modules to become a certified lifeguard for pool or beach

Adults, Families & Intergenerational

Freestyle camping – July 4-6 and August 30-September 2

Tent sites are \$30/night Cabins are \$65-\$75 per night

Community Camp – July 7-9, and August 19-22 rates starting at \$370 for family of 4

Planned camp style activities, meals included

Children's Camps: See flyers and bulletin board in fellowship hall

SCHOLARSHIPS & DISCOUNTS – If you want to come to camp, we will find a way to pay for it!

Register by May 15, save \$25

Bring a friend, sibling, save \$25

Emmanuel will subsidize \$100 per camper

CABA and VPCCM also have scholarships





CAMP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

Note About Workdays:

Every Saturday, May through June 22
(except May 18)

**lunch is provided. Please call or text Marilyn
(518-312-8761) if you plan to attend.**

Counselors

Live in a cabin with campers, guiding them through camp activities.

Day camp counselors

Minimum age 15. Daytime responsibility for children up to age 12

Cooks

Supervise food preparation and handling as directed by Food Service Supervisor

Kitchen workers

Assist in food preparation and clean-up

Maintenance

Responsible for camp cleanliness, safety and maintenance.

Work Weekends

Saturdays in May & June: Plumbing & carpentry projects, painting, raking, general cleaning.

Health Directors

Minimum age 20. EMT, LPN, RN, NP, PA, or physician. Responsible for health and safety of campers & staff. Maintain health records.

Program Specialists

Provide spiritual leadership in worship and Bible studies, or share your special skill in music, art, sailing, etc.

Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. Mt. 18:5

He took the children in his arms and blessed them. Mark 10:16

They gave a dinner for him. Martha served. John 12:2

All ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces. Mt. 14:20

The rains fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall. Mt. 7:25

All those who had any who were sick with various kinds of diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on each of them and cured them. Luke 4:40

We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us... Romans 12:6a



Participants in the Civil Rights Pilgrimage had a full, stimulating, and educational, experience. Here are some snippets from their journey:



“...we learned of the children who marched, how they were the target of fire hoses and vicious dogs; how the four little girls died in the bombing of the 16th street Baptist Church. Such courage.” -- Jean



Joanne Bland: Marched in many civil rights protests by age 13 had been jailed 11 times.



“...we were thrust into the experience of those brave persons who sat-in at segregated lunch counters... heard the menace of those who threatened us with violence in words... heard glass breaking... felt our chairs shake from the kicks delivered by our tormentors... a sobering reminder of the courage of those who endured such assaults and did not respond with violence.”
-- Pastor Kathy



Campfires Planned!

Malones will be hosting informal Friday evening campfires at 17 Fireside Lane, 6:30-8:00, and the first one will be on Friday, May 24. More information will follow, so save the date!



CELEBRATING YOUTH PRIDE

June 9

Washington Park, Albany

Emmanuel Baptist Church has a great opportunity to partner with the Pride Center youth to kick off and lead the parade at this year's Pride Parade! EBC has a long history of inclusion and this year's parade is a great way to demonstrate that we not only welcome and affirm, we celebrate LGBTQIA+

youth. We will have a float that allows for walkers as well as riders in the parade.

Let's show up strong and take full advantage of this amazing opportunity. There is a role for everyone at EBC. Here are a few ways that you can be a part of this new adventure for EBC.

- Donate poster board, markers and paint for youth to make signs on May 17th
- Donate rainbow decorations like streamers, balloons, tissue paper for decorating the float by Sunday, May 26th.
- Donate candy (no chocolate) by Sunday, May 26th
- Join the Pride Center youth in decorating the float at EBC on Saturday, June 8th
- Walk, ride or dance in the parade on Sunday, June 9th
- Staff the EBC table at the Pride Festival after the parade on Sunday, June 9th



There are lots of ways to be a part of the celebration. Reach out to Angela Neal (aneal@aarp.org) and Ruth Pushee (ruthpushee@aol.com) and let us know how you want to help.



Summer Picnics Scheduled:

Sunday, June 23, 10am

Worship and Picnic at The Crossings in Colonie
580 Albany Shaker Road, Loudonville

Drive all the way to the "back" pavilion, and you're there!!

Bring a chair, and a dish to share.

Sunday, July 28, 12 - 4pm at the Lahut's house
(after worship at Emmanuel)

Their pool will be open so be sure to pack your bathing suit. Bring a chair & a dish to share; meat for the grill & beverages will be provided. If you have questions about these events, you may speak with Ellen Corcoran.



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