

# THE MOSAIC

Published monthly by  
**EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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## *Pastoral Ponderings*



It's a new year. Some of us receive that information as an invitation to enjoy a fresh start, a clean page, or a challenge to take up some new habits. Some of us receive it with a sense of foreboding about what changes might be foisted upon us, what unwelcome newness might be required of us in the next 365 days. And some of us probably shrug, seeing no more significance to this new date than we did to the turning of the calendar from

November to December a month ago. Regardless of how we enter the new year, I expect that much of what happens at Emmanuel in 2017 will look a lot like what happened last year and the year before that. We will still be engaged in embodying the good news of Christ in tangible ways, feeding hungry people through the food pantry and breakfast club, nurturing spirits in communal worship, developing Biblically and theologically informed people who are citizens of the Kingdom of God and residents of the Capital District. We will still be a tapestry of faith that practices love, seeks peace with justice and extends radical welcome to all.

In the midst of our continuity, I hope there will also be a sense of newness. We are a creative people. We will meet emerging needs with fresh responses. One need that has been emerging for the last several years is a sense that our governance structure may not be working for us optimally at present and will not see us well into the future. Plan to attend our annual meeting following worship on January 29 to hear more and share your ideas about that.

As a church, we have been selected to participate in a 3-year program *In Support of Excellence* provided by the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board of American Baptist Churches/USA (MMBB). We are one of 8 churches in the nation in the pilot program. We were identified as a congregation that shows "demonstrated signs or

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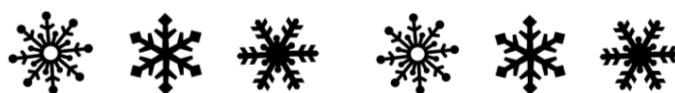
potential for ministry excellence” which would “most likely be catapulted to higher levels of sustained excellence through participation in this initiative.” *In Search of Excellence* was created to address the growing economic challenges that American Baptist churches and pastors are facing. The program begins in January. Jim and I will attend a week-long conference with the pastors and spouses of the other 7 churches as we begin to look at personal and congregational financial management skills. We have already received about 10 books to read in advance of that event. In 2018 and 2019, the week-long conference will be attended by Kathy Moore (Current Expense Treasurer) and myself. Between annual conferences, there will be other opportunities and resources for developing financial literacy and wise stewardship practices.

Whatever 2017 may hold, I am looking forward to sharing it all with you. Some of us heard these words from Ted Loder at the ecumenical service in November after the election. They are still good words as we look to the future together:

*Help me to believe in beginnings,  
to make a beginning, to be a beginning,  
so that I may not just grow old, but grow new  
each day of this wild, amazing life  
you call me to live with the passion of Jesus Christ.*

-- from a prayer by Ted Loder, "Help Me to Believe in Beginnings"  
in *Guerrillas of Grace*

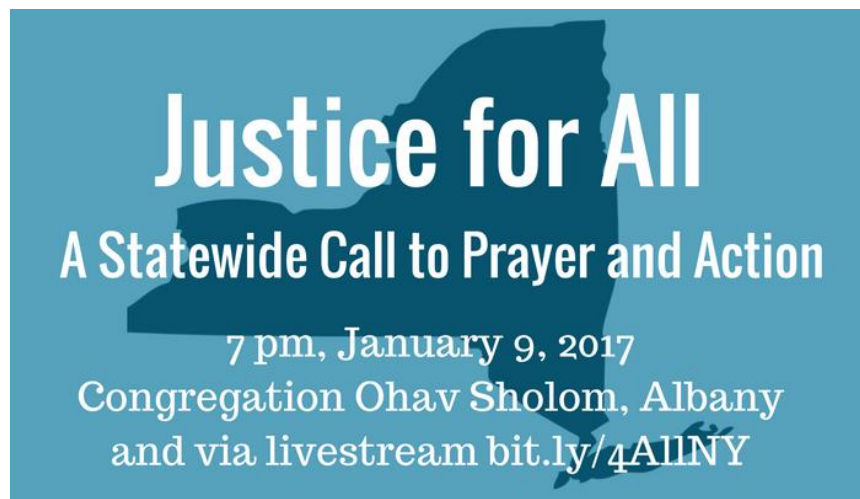
*Blessings,  
Kathy*



While Kathy and Jim are attending the *In Search of Excellence* annual conference in January, the Rev. Jerrod Huguenot will be our guest preacher. Join us for worship on January 22 to be inspired by the Associate Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of New York State.



**January 1**  
**New Year's Brunch**  
Worship with Communion  
10:00 a.m.



As the NYS legislature begins a new session, join people of many faiths in prayer, song and reflection, calling on New York to be a leader in defending the rights of workers, the poor, and the marginalized. The service will be livestreamed and will feature voices from across the state.

### **Annual Meeting Scheduled**

The by-laws require an annual meeting, but nowhere is it written that the yearly event has to be a dull, boring meeting for business. Over the last few years, we have intentionally shifted the design of our January event to be a celebration of the previous year's ministry and an anticipation of the next year together. This year continues in that vein.

We will share a catered meal together (look for menu and cost in your bulletin soon), review Emmanuel's life in 2016 with a slide show, and conduct just a few items of business. Business items include receiving the book of reports, affirming the slate presented by the Nominating Committee, along with any nominations from the floor, and renewing our shared space agreement with the Gethsemane Karen Baptist Church. Perhaps our most important activity will be an interactive exercise designed to help us see the strengths and weaknesses of our current governance structure and to imagine new possibilities.

Your presence is very important to us. We are all in this together. Please make every effort to be there – following worship on Sunday, January 29.

### **Celebration Worship and Dinner**

**JANUARY 15**

**FESTIVAL SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND HOLY COMMUNION ~ 2:00 PM**

**DINNER TO FOLLOW**

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**160 CENTRAL AVE. ALBANY, NY**

St. John's Lutheran Church invites you to attend the final service to be held at the Central Avenue Location as we celebrate the history of St. John's in downtown Albany. We invite you to vest for the worship service; the color of the day is green. Please contact Pastor Jo Page if you have any questions(jopage34@yahoo.com).

## *From Service to Others...*



### ***Annual RMM Offering to be Received***

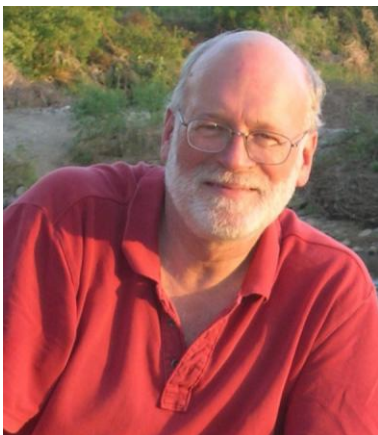
The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering will be taken on Sundays, January 8 and 15. This offering provides “thank you” to people who have spent their lives serving God as ministers, missionaries, and their widowed spouses. “In retirement years it is such a blessing to know that we are remembered in such a nice way,” said one recipient. The money received is also used to help in emergency circumstances. Please prayerfully consider how you will support this offering. Envelopes will be provided for your convenience.

### **Dinner Deliveries Continue**



During the winter months, Emmanuel supports both the Emergency Overflow Shelter at First Lutheran Church and the Shelter at Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless by occasionally providing home cooked dinners for their guests. On January 14 we will deliver to the Interfaith Shelter. Karen Kendall is organizing the meal which will be comprised of chili, salad, and cornbread. If you can help, please contact Karen.

**Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Interfaith Memorial Service  
January 15  
3:00 pm  
Congregation Beth Emeth**



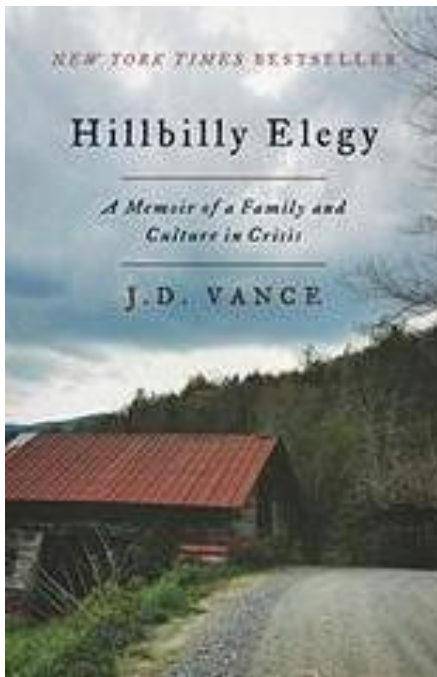
### ***FOCUS Annual Worship***

**February 5**

**10:00 a.m.**

### **First Presbyterian Church**

Join members and friends of FOCUS churches for worship as we kick off our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. Our guest preacher is the Rev. Rick Spalding. He was previously engaged with FOCUS when he served on staff at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Albany. Now he ministers to the Williams College community in his capacity as Chaplain to the College.



## Potluck and Book Conversation Planned

The election of 2016 brought surprises for many of us. Understanding and owning the culture that brought us to this point is challenging. I invite you to read *Hillbilly Elogy* to gain some insight and sensitivity to how our country is evolving. On Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> the adult Sunday School class will meet the author, J.D.Vance, via his TED talk. Then on Friday evening, February 17<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 come and join in a conversation about the book, sharing your impressions and ideas. We will enjoy a light potluck supper and then discuss the book. These are cold months ahead and curling up with a good book will feel good!!

### *Hillbilly Elogy, A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis*

*From a former marine and Yale Law School graduate, a powerful account of growing up in a poor Rust Belt town that offers a broader, probing look at the struggles of America's white working class. Hillbilly Elogy is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis - that of white working-class Americans. The decline of this group, a demographic of our country that has been slowly disintegrating over 40 years, has been reported on with growing frequency and alarm but has never before been written about as searingly from the inside. J. D. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck.*

*A deeply moving memoir with its share of humor and vividly colorful figures, Hillbilly Elogy is the story of how upward mobility really feels. And it is an urgent and troubling meditation on the loss of the American dream for a large segment of this country.*

**Empty Bowls**, a fundraiser for both FOCUS Churches and our ally, the Hunger Action Network of New York State, will be on **Sunday, February 12 from 1 to 3 pm** at the Elks Lodge, 25 S. Allen Street in Albany. We are seeking honorary hosts (those who donate at least \$100) as well as volunteers to set up, serve and clean up. The idea behind Empty Bowls is that for a minimum donation of \$25, you can choose from a wide selection of pottery soup bowls to take home. You will also get to sample wonderful soups and bread donated by Albany area restaurants and chefs. Free parking will be available.



*Deadline for the February issue of the MOSAIC is January 18.*



Emmanuel Ladies are invited to meet for lunch at Shaker Point on Thursday, February 2, at 11:45 a.m. Kindly let Pat Hunziker or Betty Mallory know if you plan to join us. We hope to see you there!



January 8 ~ Diaconate  
 January 16 ~ Church Office Closed  
 January 29 ~ Annual Meeting

### Advent 2016

Emmanuel's observance of Advent was brought to you by the Advent Committee: Janet Appe, Jan Curtis, Danielle Johnson, Becca Leet, Frank Scheu, Maria Townes, and Jim Wilkerson.

If you particularly appreciated an event or idea, please share your gratitude with them. If you have ideas for themes or activities to include in Advent 2017, please share them with Pastor Kathy now, while they are fresh in your mind.

If you have not yet submitted your Annual Report, please do so as soon as possible. We wish to distribute the Book of Reports on Sunday, January 22.

**Remember the Food Pantry...**

*January:  
razors and deodorant*




Please contact Dorothy in the church office with any changes in your address or other contact information

by **January 9<sup>th</sup>** (465-5161 or [emmanuelalbany@juno.com](mailto:emmanuelalbany@juno.com)) A new directory is being compiled, and a draft copy will be ready for your review on Sundays in mid-January. The goal is to have the final version ready for distribution on Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your cooperation. (DW)

## Happy Birthday...

### January

Ellen Corcoran		3 <sup>rd</sup>
Kathy Donley		4 <sup>th</sup>
Marjorie Fuller		4 <sup>th</sup>
Michael Clement		11 <sup>th</sup>
Rosemary Koonce		14 <sup>th</sup>
Monica Scheerer		15 <sup>th</sup>
Lucas Silverman		15 <sup>th</sup>
Mattie Blassengale		18 <sup>th</sup>
Jean Burton		21 <sup>st</sup>
Samuel Koonce		24 <sup>th</sup>
Chelah Collins		25 <sup>th</sup>
Erica Edwards		25 <sup>th</sup>
Hunter Spann		25 <sup>th</sup>
Gretchen Scheu		26 <sup>th</sup>
Veronica Torian		28 <sup>th</sup>

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



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