

THE MOSAIC

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Pastoral Ponderings



The first inter-faith event I attended in 2017 was *Justice for All: A Statewide Call to Prayer and Action*. It was intended to bring people of various faiths together to help us unite for justice within New York State. Nancy Horan and Joanna Nadeau were there from Emmanuel too. One of the things

we heard was a litany adapted from a statement by St. Mark's Cathedral Parish, an Episcopalian congregation in Seattle, Washington. The language of this statement speaks strongly to me. It holds up our values and also offers specific ways thoughts about how to live them out. I think that many Emmanuelites will agree with most, if not all, of these ideas. Here is the statement in its entirety:

1. *We will go deeper in faith.*

We commit to read, study, and live the words of Jesus. The prophet Micah's words provide a mantra for us as people of faith: "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God." We must seek both courage and humility as we respond.

2. *We will listen.*

We will listen to those with whom we may disagree as we seek safe and sacred spaces for hearing each other's stories, pains, fears, and hopes. We will foster such dialogue so that our children might learn the meaning of the diversity and pluralism that is America's best future.

3. *We will lift up truth.*

We will strive to replace fear with facts when it comes to public discussions about immigrants, refugees, Muslims, racial diversity, and national security. Our times require a moral compass, and truth-telling is an important part of this.

4. *We will reject White Nationalism.*

We will name racism, anti-Semitism, and xenophobia as sins. We believe all people are made in God's image, and we affirm diversity as a gift, blessing, and opportunity for our nation.

continued...

5. *We will love our neighbors by protecting them from hate speech and attacks. We will identify, report, and confront hate speech and behavior — against all ethnic and religious groups, women, LGBTQ people, immigrants, people with disabilities, and all marginalized groups. Our church stands as a sanctuary and safe haven for people threatened by those who would attack them.*
6. *We will welcome the stranger, as our Scriptures instruct. We will advocate for immigrants and their families, and we will block, interfere, and obstruct the mass deportations of immigrants who are members of our communities.*
7. *We will expose and oppose racial profiling in policing. We will join with other local faith communities in monitoring the relationship of our police to our communities, calling out racial injustice when we see it.*
8. *We will defend religious liberty. We embrace Muslims as fellow Americans and stand with our local mosques in congregational solidarity. We will denounce the defamation and banning of Muslims, and will seek to disrupt any attempt to require registration of Muslims.*
9. *We will work to end misogyny that enables sexism and a culture of sexual violence. We will work to replace misogyny with mutual respect. We will name sexual assault for what it is—a sin and a crime. Gender fairness and equality must be fundamental principles in our workplaces, schools, and political systems.*
10. *We will fight for climate justice and protection of our environment. As stewards of our land, air and water, we will stand with others in broad coalition to preserve these precious resources while working to reverse the troubling trends of human-caused climate change.*
11. *We will protest with our best values. We will defend constitutional values and workplace fairness, striving to respect the dignity of every human being. Whether in our streets, with our schools or in our workplaces — we will protest with dignity, discipline, and non-violence, not with hate for hate.*
12. *We make these commitments to you, and with you. The days and weeks and years ahead will surely require much of us. Saint Mark's Cathedral will be here to provide sustenance for the journey, resources for learning, safe space for dialogue, and opportunities for prayerful resistance and action. Join us as we engage this work, as community, in God's name.*

*Adopted unanimously by the Vestry of Saint Mark's Cathedral Parish
Seattle, Washington
December 20, 2016*

I trust that #12 is also true of us, that Emmanuel will be here to provide sustenance, resources and opportunities for prayerful resistance and action. I am not asking us to sign on this statement, just to do our best to live it out as we daily seek to follow Jesus.

*Blessings,
Kathy*



From Service to Others...



Dinner Deliveries Continue



During the winter months, Emmanuel supports the Emergency Overflow Shelter at First Lutheran Church and the Shelter at Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless by sending meals for their guests. During extreme weather, Interfaith operates a code blue emergency shelter called Safe Haven, which is located at the Sheridan Hollow Drop-in Center on S. Swan St.

On February 12 Emmanuel will deliver food for the guests of that shelter. Are you able to prepare either a soup, salad or dessert? Can you provide bread or rolls? Karen Kendall is organizing the dinner. Please let her know how you will help.



A Note from Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless

Thank you for your year-round support, enthusiasm, and commitment to IPH! With your help, IPH was able to provide 27,475 bed nights to families and individual shelter guests this year. Every meal, donation drive, volunteer hour, and financial donation makes an impact and we simply couldn't do it without you. From all of the staff and guests of IPH, "Thank you!"

Help Provide "Love Kits"

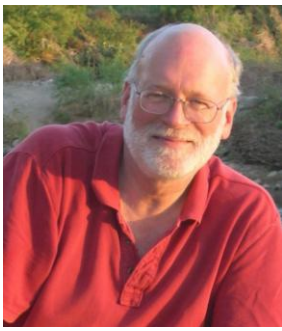
Service to Others will be collecting *Love Kits* throughout February. Pick up a brown paper bag and fill it with travel size toiletries for guests at the Interfaith Shelter for the Homeless. Love Kits are easy to assemble (list of suggested items will be attached to the bag) and are very much appreciated by the people who receive them. A special treat such as a candy bar or granola bar is always welcome too. Look for the box in Fellowship Hall to pick up the list and return filled bags. See Nancy Horan if you have any questions.



Service to Others Commission appreciates the generosity of Emmanuel friends as we collected laundry detergent for Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless. We delivered a good supply and it is greatly appreciated.



NOTE: FOCUS Food Pantry is in need of shampoo, deodorant and razors ~ Won't you consider a special donation?



FOCUS Annual Worship

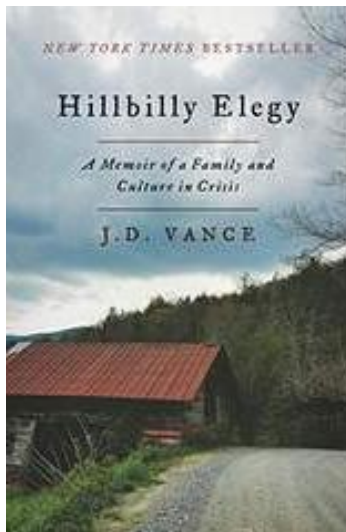
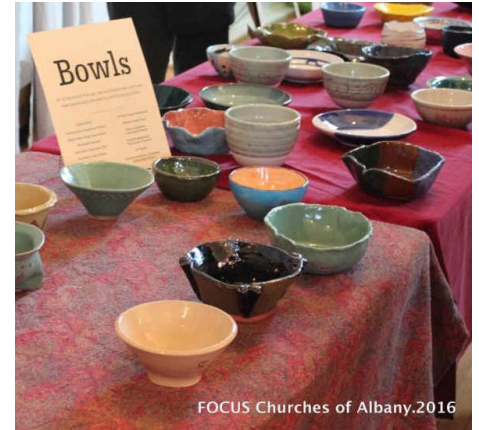
February 5

10:00 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church

Join members and friends of FOCUS churches for worship as we kick off our 50th 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.

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.



Potluck and Book Conversation Planned

Join us on Friday evening, **February 17th** at 6:30 as we enjoy a light potluck supper and then discuss the book, *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance

Hillbilly Elegy, A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis 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 Elegy* 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.





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!



On Saturday, March 11 CABA will host “*Bridges for Churches*” conducted by Mike Saccocio, Executive Director, Schenectady City Mission. *Bridges for*

Churches will help you gain a better understanding of poverty, and from that understanding develop more effective outreaches to people in poverty. We will also provide a biblical framework for applying the principles and constructs contained in the Bridges Out of Poverty trainings.

We will meet at the Latham Community Baptist Church, 109 Forts Ferry Road, Latham, NY, 12110. This event will start at 10:00 am and conclude at 2:00 pm. Costs will be \$20 for a workbook and a \$10 hospitality fee to cover the costs of snacks, lunch, and beverages. Registration information will be forthcoming.



**Albany Devils Hockey
February 18**

Join Emmanuel friends for a game at the Times Union Center. Time: 1:00 and tickets are \$16.00 per person. If you have any questions please see Frank Scheu. **Payment is due by Sunday, February 12.**



Please Note...

Coordinating Council:

February 7, 5:30 at church

Diaconate:

February 19 after worship

Church Office Closed:

February 20

Happy Birthday...
February

Betty Mallory	1 st
Aaron Johnson	9 th
Wesley Kendall	5 th
Becca Leet	15 th
David Green	16 th
Tim Bray	18 th
Cassandra Paul	18 th
Gail Hill	28 th



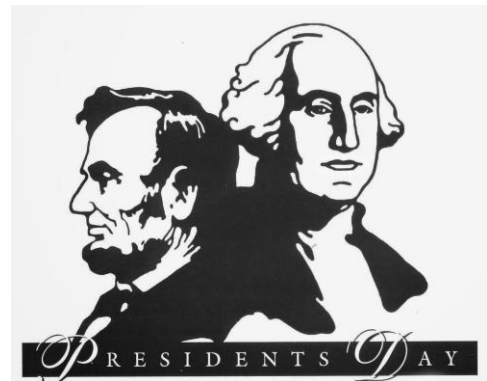
If your birthday is not published in our monthly listing, please notify Dorothy at 465-5161.

**Remember the
Food Pantry...**

February:
feminine hygiene products



**Deadline for the March
MOSAIC is February 18**



February 20

Emmanuel Baptist Church
275 State St.
Albany, NY 12210

