

# THE MOSAIC

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**EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH**

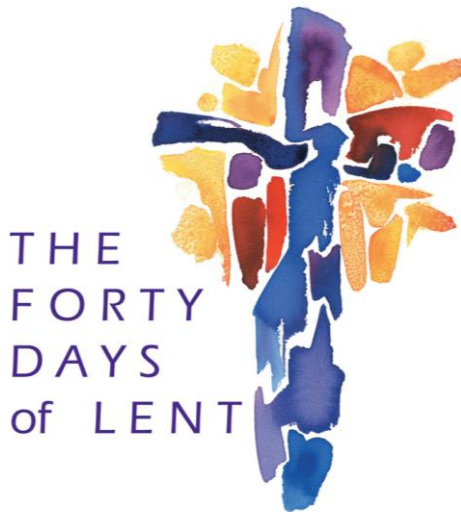
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## *Pastoral Ponderings*

In the traditional church calendar, the seasons of Advent and Lent were primarily penitential. Advent was intended to prepare us for Christ's birth and his ultimate return; Lent, to prepare for his death and the celebration of resurrection. These were serious seasons focused on an awareness of human sin and brokenness accompanied by the disciplines of confession and penance and fasting. With the secularization of Christmas in the last century, Advent has become lighter and more joyful, with an emphasis more on the hope found in Christ than despair over the human condition. However, world events and the election cycle in the fall of 2016 led to an

Advent that was more solemn than many in recent memory.

In mainline Protestantism, Lent is no longer the heavily penitential time of the ancient church, but it is still a serious season focused on following Jesus faithfully, all the way to the cross if necessary. Lent begins on March 1, but many of us have not had much sense of relief or a lightening of the spiritual mood between Advent and Lent, as would usually happen. We are more aware than ever of the polarizations within our country, within our families. We are more aware than ever of the deep divisions between different factions of Christianity, those which have been theological becoming increasingly political as well.

As the cultural and political landscape suddenly shifts, the season of Lent arrives to help us grapple with perennial questions about the true cost of discipleship. What might be required of us at this point in history? Where will we find wisdom and courage for the living of these days?

Wisdom may be found among all the saints that have gone ahead of us, all the stories of faithful discipleship exercised courageously in difficult, fearful circumstances. Writer Joyce Hollyday describes visiting a Salvadoran refugee camp in Honduras, where injustice and suffering were daily realities. A short-term missionary from Indiana named Yvonne was there. One refugee woman asked Yvonne why she always looked so sad and burdened. Yvonne answered by talking about the grief she felt over all the suffering she was witnessing and her commitment to give all of herself to the struggle of the refugees.

*continued...*

The Salvadoran woman gently confronted her and said, “Only people who expect to go back to North America in a year work the way you do. You cannot be serious about our struggle unless you play and celebrate and do those things that make it possible to give a lifetime to it.”

And they meant it, too. Every time the refugees were displaced and had to build a new camp, they immediately formed three committees: a construction committee, an education committee, and the *comite’ de alegria*—‘the committee of joy.’ Celebration was as basic to the life of the refugees as digging latrines and teaching their children to read. (*Clothed with the Sun: Biblical Women, Social Justice and Us,*)

Our Lenten theme is Creating Communities of Resistance, Resilience and Joy. We resist human understandings of success and power, in order to participate in the God’s design for shalom for the world. We do this in ways that bring strength and courage, enabling us to be faithful followers of Jesus for the long term. And in a bold counter-cultural move, going against even well-established church culture, we will choose joy now, in Lent, even before we celebrate the resurrection on Easter. This newsletter is full of information about ways you can participate in our life together this Lent. Because we each find joy and strength in different ways, the opportunities are many and varied. We need each other in the struggle and the celebration. Please join us.

*Blessings,  
Kathy*



Many churches have a simple worship service on Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. Other churches have a traditional pancake supper on Mardi Gras, the last day before Lent begins. Here at Emmanuel, we believe in making the most of every opportunity and mixing and matching elements from many traditions.

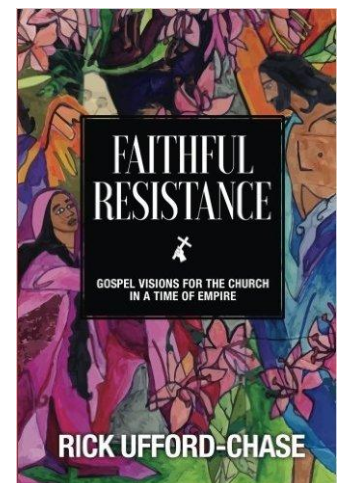
Back by popular demand, the Lent Committee presents Pancakes on Ash Wednesday. Join us at 6:00 on March 1 for a pancake supper followed by a time of worship with the imposition of ashes. Receiving ashes is always optional. Look for a sign-up sheet in fellowship hall to reserve your place at the pancake feast.

### **Lent/Spring Book Study Starts March 6**

*Faithful Resistance: Gospel Visions for the Church in a Time of Empire*  
by Rick Ufford-Chase

“Is it possible for a church that has been at the heart of Empire for as long as we have to make a course correction and move intentionally from the center of Empire to the margins?”

Join us for conversation about this book on four consecutive Mondays in March followed by every other Monday in April and May. Location to be determined by the size of the group. Please sign up to help us plan. Books are available for purchase through your independent book seller. Some used and new copies are also available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).





## *The Weeks Ahead in Worship*

*On Sunday mornings, we will explore Biblical examples of communities that resisted or failed to resist cultural conformity. We will remember stories of other people who acted with faith, courage and wisdom in their own places and times. These are not traditional Lenten texts. Many of them are not found in the lectionary and might fall into the category of least-often-preached-Bible-stories. It might be a bumpy ride, but it will be joyful. Don't miss it!*

**March 5**  
Celebration of  
Communion

Exodus 1-2  
Resisting Empire

**March 12**

Numbers 27 and 26  
Matthew 9:20-22  
Persistent Women

**March 19**

Daniel 1-3  
Romans 12:1-2  
Faithful Integrity

**March 26**

Ezra 9, Nehemiah 13  
Galatians 3:23-39  
Inclusion vs. Exclusion

**April 2**  
Celebration of  
Communion

Isaiah 49:8-16a  
Matthew 11:25-30  
Covenant Love and Sanctuary

**April 9**

Matthew 16:21-28  
The Way of Suffering

**April 13**

Maundy Thursday  
Communion and Tenebrae  
5:30 p.m.

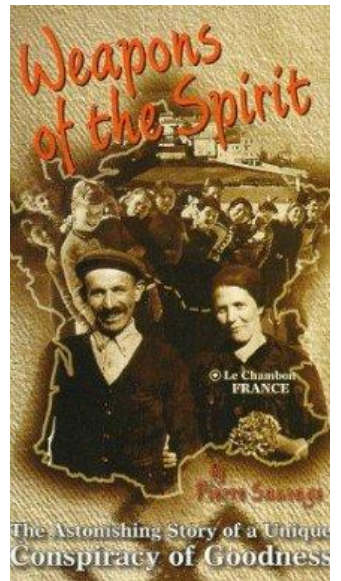


*Daylight Saving  
Time Begins March 12  
Spring Forward!*

## From the Committee of Joy...

### Potluck Lunch March 5 and March 26

Join us for worship on **March 5**, the first Sunday of Lent. Stay to enjoy table fellowship over lunch and to watch the documentary *Weapons of the Spirit*, the inspiring account of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, a tiny Protestant farming village. Most of the villagers were descendants of the Huguenots, the first Protestants in Catholic France. Remembering their own history of persecution and seeking to resist the violence of the Nazis, they sheltered 5,000 Jewish people during World War II. *Weapons of the Spirit* is their story, produced by film-maker Pierre Sauvage, one of the Jewish babies protected by the village.



### Potluck #2 March 26

Two potlucks in the same month is surely a definition of joy for many Baptists. Bring a dish to share. Enjoy table fellowship and conversation followed by activities for people of all ages. Opportunities include letter writing, planting seeds, and poster coloring. Sign up in fellowship hall. Make it joyful for everyone by sharing the load of set-up and clean-up.



Everyone's Irish  
On March 17th.

### GO GREEN!!

#### Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at Emmanuel!

A St. Patrick's Day Party for all ages will be held at Emmanuel on (what else?) St. Patrick's Day, Friday, March 17. Festivities will begin at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall with some gathering games. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m., featuring corned beef and cabbage, Irish soda bread, a vegetarian option, salad, and dessert. After dinner, we'll have more games and some Irish songs.

People of all ages—as well as leprechauns—are welcome. Please invite friends, neighbors, family, coworkers, and anyone who enjoys the “wearin’ o’ the green.” Let us know how many of you are coming by signing up in church, calling the Church Office at 465-5161, or e-mailing Andrea at [noseysmom@nycap.rr.com](mailto:noseysmom@nycap.rr.com) or Edith at [edith.leet@outlook.com](mailto:edith.leet@outlook.com). There is no charge for the party, but we do ask for a donation to cover the cost of the meal. Suggested donation: \$5



### Make-Your-Own Retreat

Friday, March 31

3:00-8:00 p.m.

Walk a canvas labyrinth. Write a prayer of praise or confession in the sand. Unburden yourself in prayer and let that burden go by releasing a stone into water. These and other interactive meditation stations will be available in the sanctuary on March 31. Ideas and instructions will be provided. You are encouraged to use the materials as you see fit, to meet your own needs. Spend a few minutes, or an hour, or an evening. Come and go on your own schedule.

## *From Service to Others...*



**AMERICA  
FOR CHRIST  
OFFERING  
2017**

### **America for Christ Offering to be Received**

The America for Christ (AFC) Offering 2017 theme, “Cultivating Leaders, Equipping Disciples, Healing Communities,” reminds us that, as American Baptists, we exemplify a vital legacy of mission and ministry dating to 1824. The 21st-century challenges of leadership are numerous, but we are invigorated by the passage of

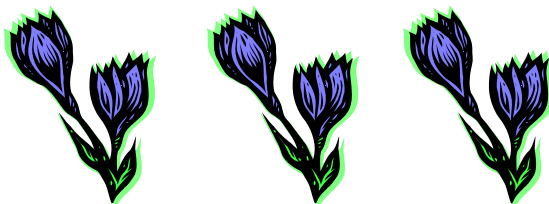
Luke 4:18-19: *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor”* (NRSV).

Through your generous donations and partnership, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is committed to cultivating dynamic Christian leaders who are culturally and spiritually competent, in touch with their churches and communities, and passionate about ministry and helping people. Highly developed Christ-honoring leaders are called to advance the mission of peace, hope and love in their churches and communities with resilience, faithfulness and proficiency.

Your AFC gifts will come alongside ABHMS as we continually address the question: *What do leaders need to continue growing and developing?* The AFC Offering 2017 reminds us that service is a way of life for Christ’s church. Cultivating leaders is a call to all of our American Baptist family.

**We will receive the Offering on two Sundays, March 5 & 12;** envelopes will be provided for your convenience. Consider making a generous gift! Help support home mission across the United States and Puerto Rico. Together we can make a difference.

**Remember the  
Food Pantry... March: toilet paper**



## *From Caring & Fellowship Commission...*

### **Fellowship Fund Collection:**

#### **What is the Fellowship Fund at Emmanuel Baptist Church?**

- Money available to provide financial assistance to those in need.

How is the Fellowship Fund maintained?

- Money is specifically designated for this fund.
  - Money is collected through the “Fellowship Fund collection”
- How is the Fellowship Fund administered?
- The Pastor receives a special needs request.
  - The Chairperson of the Caring & Fellowship Commission is consulted for requests.
  - The Treasurer for Benevolence administers the funds to fulfill the request.
  - All requests are treated with discretion and confidentiality.

How does someone contribute to the Fellowship Fund collection?

- There will be envelopes provided each Communion Sunday (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month) marked as “Fellowship Fund” with a place to put your name. All gifts in these envelopes will be deposited into the fellowship fund checking account.

What has the Fellowship Fund been used for in the recent past?

- Current Balance: approximately \$10,000 as of January 1, 2017
- In 2016, \$3,169 was withdrawn to meet financial needs.
- In 2014, \$5,000 was loaned to the Community Loan Fund
- Based in Albany
- Facilitates much needed community development projects throughout the Capital Region
- In January, 2017, the term for the loan to the Community Loan Fund was extended to mature in January, 2020.

## *From Christian Growth & Development...*



**To all children and youth Sunday School teachers and helpers: You are invited to dinner on March 8, 6:00, at EBC. In addition to wonderful food and fellowship, we will learn more techniques to improve our teaching skills, share ideas for Children's Day, and discuss how we feel about teaching this year. Please plan to join us. RSVP to Jim Wilkerson or Marilyn Malone (malonehome@aol.com)**



## Non-Violent Communication: The Basics

Wednesdays: March 8 & 15

6:00 to 8:30 pm

Facilitators: Rev. Susan Vincent Cox & Becky Hudak

First Church in Albany, Parlor 110 North Pearl Street (Parking available)

- How do I live the values of love, understanding, peace or justice in my community, in my family, in my workplace, in my world?
- How do I put into practice loving my neighbor as myself?
- How can I find ways through conflict that are caring and connecting and feel authentic to who I am?

This event is for everyone (space limited to 20 participants)

Sign up : [www.firstchurchinalbany.org](http://www.firstchurchinalbany.org) or call Valerie : 463-4449

*This workshop is supported by FOCUS Churches of Albany*



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.

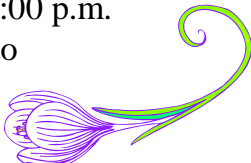
## Save the Dates

April 8 Communal Hike in the afternoon. 

More details coming soon.

 **Friday/Saturday, May 19-20, 2017**

CABA will be hosting “*Healthy Congregations*” conducted by Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. *Healthy Congregations* is a workshop designed to improve people’s capacity to calmly articulate what they think and value, and to act on that basis, while staying in active relationship with those who may disagree. Having the capacity to calmly discuss and resolve issues in a Biblical manner is an essential skill for all church members.

We will meet at the Clifton Park Center Baptist Church on: Friday, May 19 – 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, May 20 – 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Participants will need to purchase a workbook for \$20 and provide a hospitality fee of \$10 to cover the costs of snacks, lunch, and beverages. 

## A Note from Danielle Johnson:

*“Greetings!*

*I can not say enough how much I miss this church. No matter how far I move. Since I have been gone, I think about the love and support that I have felt. Emmanuel truly feels like home. I haven't been back to Albany, but hopefully, I will soon.*

*The move was stressful, but we survived and are finally getting settled in. My job is wonderful and the hardest job I've ever had, but it's a good fit. It's a very big hospital, but my department isn't too big and they are very supportive. Chris, Dester and I are doing well.*

*I apologize for my lack of contact. I have been extremely busy and avoiding being homesick. I'm more settled now so I will try to do better. I still need my church family. Please give my greetings to everyone and let them know how much I miss and love you all”*

Danielle's address:

20 High St.  
Huntington, NY 11743



### **Congratulations**

to Beth Malone and Janet Appe on the birth of Leah

Margaret (4 lbs 15

oz) and Maren Jennie (6 lbs 1 oz) on February 12. Judah is the proud big brother!



Emmanuel Men are invited to meet for lunch at Shaker Pointe restaurant on Wednesday, March 1, at 11:45 a.m. If you plan to attend, please contact Bob Hunziker so that adequate seating can be arranged. We hope to see you there!

### **Please Note...**

**Coordinating Council:**  
March 7, 5:30 at Donley's  
**Diaconate:**  
March 12 after worship



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

## **Happy Birthday... March**

Betty Jordan

Sally Cole

Jonathan Malone

Lucy Wong

Olivia LaBarge



1<sup>st</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup>

10<sup>th</sup>

22<sup>nd</sup>

30<sup>th</sup>

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

**Spring**  
Begins March 20



Emmanuel Baptist Church  
275 State St.  
Albany, NY 12210

