

# THE MOSAIC

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



After the FOCUS service we hosted in August, I conversed with woman who wanted to know how long ago we had removed the pews. She didn't remember that from her last visit. When I told her that it was more than 10 years ago, she was surprised. She said that she has been in the sanctuary more recently than that, at a time when the pews were already gone. She also said that she had just recently had foot surgery which has led to observing new things about her environment. She suspected that the reason she noted the pews this time was that navigating the sanctuary space required a different kind of attention than usual.

I had some wonderful trips this summer, but the most significant one was the week Jim and I spent in Mexico with Baptists for Peace ~ *Bautistas por la Paz*. One of my hopes in going was that the cross-cultural experience would remind me of some things that I already knew and teach me some new ones.

That hope was definitely realized. Being in a context where the culture and language are not what you encounter every day requires a different kind of attention, like walking around on a foot changed by surgery.

Daily worship and Bible studies were conducted in Spanish. Anyone who needed English translation used a headset to hear a gifted woman named Yasmine who translated simultaneously for us. I was so grateful for her work, but I was also aware that it was changing the experience. With the headphones on, I wondered if I was speaking or singing too loudly as I read responses on the screen. One time an English speaker stood up front and read a few prepared sentences in Spanish. She had left her headphones on. Mid-sentence, she stopped speaking because she was listening to the translator! I learned to take my headphones off for singing, but then would momentarily forget to put them back on and lose some of what was said next.

In small group workshops, the translation was done by volunteers. Some presentations were offered in English, others in Spanish, so except for the bi-lingual folks among us, everyone got an opportunity to be on the receiving end of translation. If multiple volunteer



translators were present in the same workshop, they took turns, sharing that intense task. Sometimes, they would consult each other for the right word. Sometimes, they would gently offer a correction to a mistranslation. As grateful as I was for the translators, I realized how many nuances and details were lost. I became aware that I was reluctant to ask too many questions, for fear that the answers had already been provided and I had missed them, or that the specificity of my question would get lost in translation.

Because of other people's efforts on my behalf and in spite of what might have been lost in translation, I learned so much. The speakers were passionate disciples of Jesus, including scholars with multiple publications, earnest seminarians, and those with teaching gifts whose ministries may only ever be recognized within a local church. I am grateful.

One major outcome of this experience is that I'm asking myself how we can do a better job with hospitality at Emmanuel. Sometimes people come to us from outside a church culture. How can we more intentionally translate church language and EBC-insider knowledge to welcome newcomers? We are regularly blessed with people whose first language is not English. Perhaps some of us could actually learn Karen or Kachin or Urdu. Short of that commitment, what else could we do? I realized that I can understand written Spanish much better than spoken Spanish. When the words to prayers and songs and even key phrases in lectures or sermons were provided in writing, I understood some parts before anything was translated. I have avoided putting too many words on our screen in the past, but now I wonder if some words in English would be a benefit to those who are still learning the language. I wonder if newcomers hesitate to ask questions, as I did when I was the stranger, and whether we can slow down and attend to each other in ways that give permission for questions, even ones that might take some time and clarification and nuance.



Before this, my favorite Spanish word was *esperanza*, which means hope. I love the sound of *esperanza*. A word that conveys the idea of hope, but has four syllables seems more solid to me somehow. At Peace Camp, I learned the word *solidaridad*, solidarity. *Esperanza* and *solidaridad* are now my favorite Spanish words. We sang them every day in our theme song, *Arropándonos con Esperanza* ~ Clothing Each Other with Hope. The chorus repeats, "You are calling us to embrace life/ from the corners of dignity/ clothing each other with hope and faith/ pieces of love: solidarity."

My prayer for EBC in this season is that we will be filled with *esperanza* and *solidaridad*. *Solidaridad* with all those who face the forces that seek to diminish life, like poverty, addiction, racism, and xenophobia, and *Esperanza* because we trust the death-defeating power of Jesus.

In hope and solidarity,

*Kathy*

### **Pastoral Relations Committee to Meet**

The Pastoral Relations Committee will meet September 13<sup>th</sup>. This committee exists to support and maintain an open and healthy relationship between the pastor and members of the congregation, which is vital to EBC's effectiveness in mission and ministry. This is the Pastoral Relations Committee's last scheduled meeting in 2017. If you have comments, questions, concerns or affirmations to share, please contact a member of the committee soon. Committee members are Liselle LaFrance, Ken Cole, Barb Lahut, Betty Mallory, and Edie Simpson.

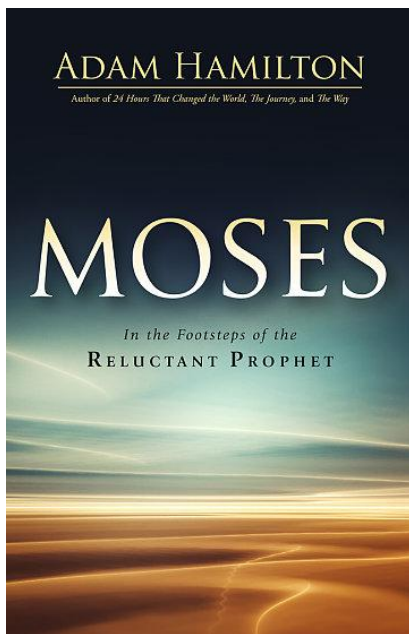
# Sunday School Resumes September 10

(grades K-2), 9 in Juniors (grades 3-5), and 12 youth (grades 6-9). There are 12 teachers and 10 assistants preparing to lead the faith formation journey this year! (There is still space for you to join this team!)

Over the summer, the Godly Play and Junior classrooms have been relocated and renovated. These two groups will meet each week together for music and a story. Then the Godly Play children will continue with their regular routine while the older children dig deeper into Biblical truths.

Children will soon be receiving a personal letter from their teachers. Parents, share in their excitement! Church family, encourage our children in their faith formation! Pray for the leaders, the children, and their families, that God will bless us all this year!

One of the highlights of fall is returning to our Christian Education programs. On September 10, we will introduce the teachers and give you a glimpse of the classroom activities. As a preview, we have 2 children in the nursery, 7 Preschoolers, 12 in Godly Play



As we launch our educational program year on September 10, we also start a worship and educational series on Moses. Moses has been described as the single most important figure in the Hebrew Bible. The Exodus is one of the defining events in Jewish identity and remains important to Christian understandings of liberation and justice as inherent in God's nature. In a six-sermon series, from September 10-October 15, we will recall the circumstances of Moses' birth, God's call from a burning bush, the Hebrew people's Exodus from bondage in Egypt, their learnings in the wilderness, receiving the Ten Commandments, and the occasion of Moses' death. The Contemporary Christian Concerns class will explore these same events in four sessions, using Adam Hamilton's book and DVD *Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet*. This study uses the Biblical text along with historical information, archaeological data and film footage of Hamilton's recent journey

through Egypt, including Mt. Sinai, the Nile, the Red Sea and the wilderness. Adam Hamilton is also the author of the *Half Truths* study which several of us enjoyed last year. The Moses classes will take place in the parlor from 11:30-12:30 on September 10, September 24, October 1 and October 8.

## ***Weekday Bible Study Begins September 13***

*Join us on Wednesdays at 1 pm as we look at the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday. Bring a bag lunch if you wish; beverages provided.*





**Meet the Rev. LeDayne McLeese Polaski at a  
House Party**

for members and new friends of BPFNA  
**Wednesday, September 13, 6:30 – 8:30 pm**  
at the home of Peter JB Carman &  
Lynn Carman Bodden

29 Front St, Schenectady, Ny 12305

(Please call 585-406-5166 if you have trouble finding the house.)

Peter JB Carman & Kathy Donley invite you to celebrate the vision & work of BPFNA ~  
Bautistas por la Paz (an international organization of Baptist peacemakers)

Dress is informal. Please bring an hors d'oeuvre or dessert to share. You will have the opportunity to  
have conversation with Rev. LeDayne McLeese Polaski, Executive Director of BPFNA ~ Bautistas  
por la Paz. Please let us know if you're coming. Sign up on the clipboard in Fellowship Hall by  
**September 10<sup>th</sup>**.



***From Service to Others...***



The final total for the Albany CROP Hunger Walk for 2017 is \$95,505, over \$8000 more than last year! Emmanuel's team (Michelle Calvin, Chelah Collins, Nancy Horan, Jim Ketcham, Becca Leet, Edith Leet, Marilyn Malone, Tony Malone and Judah Appe) raised \$1,330.

The Albany CROP Hunger Walk helps feed people at home and abroad: one quarter of the funds raised comes back to food pantries and soup kitchens in our area, while the rest is used for hunger relief and development projects around the world. Thanks to those who walked and to all who supported them.



**CABA Women's Fall Retreat  
September 14-16**

It's time to think about your participation in the annual American Baptist Women's Retreat for CABA and Adirondack Association women. The retreat will be held at Christ the King Spiritual Life Center, Greenwich, NY. Thursday, September 14 is planned as an optional day for rest and relaxation; structured activities will begin Friday evening. and the key-note speaker will be the Rev. Damaris Cami-Stales from Clifton Park.

Cost for Thursday arrival, including meals, registration fee and accommodations for two nights is \$220 (dbl) \$280 (single). Friday arrival is \$120 (dbl) \$150 (single) If you wish to participate on Saturday only the cost is \$45 and includes lunch and registration fee. For further details, scholarship information and registration forms, please speak with Karen Kendall. Registration deadline is **August 31**. Plan to join us for this special time of enrichment and growth.



The American Cancer Society is seeking volunteers to drive cancer patients to and from life-saving medical appointments. The schedules are flexible. If you have a car and can spare as little as one morning or afternoon a month to help, please call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-227-2345 or visit [cancer.org/volunteer](http://cancer.org/volunteer)



## ***Are You the Volunteer We're Looking For?***

In July, a congregation of Kachin people started using the fellowship hall for worship on Sunday evenings. It is a small congregation of about 8 households. The Kachin people are refugees from the northern area of Myanmar. Part of our agreement is that representatives from each of our congregations will meet together every 6-8 weeks to establish relationships, to attend to building use issues, and to act as liaisons between our communities.

We are looking for two or three people willing to serve in that capacity. The ideal candidates for this task will have gifts of hospitality and careful listening as well as the desire to represent Emmanuel to others. It is an important job with a time commitment of 60-90 minutes every other month. If you are willing, or just want more information, please speak with Pastor Kathy or Moderator Liselle LaFrance.

## ***FOCUS News...***



*Focus Service*

**at 9:30 a.m.**

Sept. 3 - at First Presbyterian

*All are Welcome!*

(No service at Emmanuel)

# ***Save the Date...***

Saturday, October 28

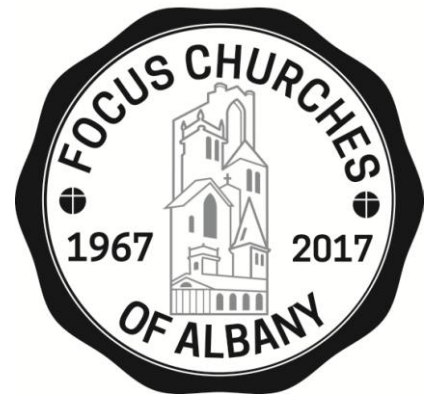
**FOCUS Churches**

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

St. Sophia's Church

*\$50 per person*

*Watch the mail for your special invitation  
including dinner selection information*



# ***Remember the Food Pantry...***

***Deodorant and shampoo***

# Western New York PEACE CAMP: *vulnerability and hope*



Friday and Saturday,  
September 8-9, 2017  
GREECE BAPTIST CHURCH  
*1230 Long Pond Road  
Rochester, New York*



## *Speakers*

**Dr. Marvin McMickle**  
President of Colgate Rochester Crozer  
Divinity School

**LeDayne McLeese Polaski**  
Executive Director of Baptist Peace  
Fellowship of North America

## *Program*

- inspiring worship, speakers, and music
- workshops dealing with vulnerability and hope in four different contexts: 1) race, 2) aging, 3) special needs, and 4) being peacemakers in a divisive political climate
- age-appropriate activities for children
- time to relax and share

## *Cost*

\$32 for adults, \$12 for children (through high school age). This covers registration, fees, Friday dinner, and Saturday luncheon. (Scholarships available if needed.)  
Registration deadline: August 31, 2017

## *Contact*

Marilyn Thrall: MarilynTatGBC@gmail.com  
Church office: (585) 225.6160

*"We have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed."*

*2 Corinthians 4:7-9*



*“We need a Poor People’s Campaign for Moral Revival to help us become the nation we’ve not yet been.” Rev. William Barber, II*



**POOR PEOPLE’S CAMPAIGN  
MASS MEETING &  
FAITH FOR A FAIR NY  
CONFERENCE**

**OCTOBER 17-18 BINGHAMTON**

**Tuesday, October 17, 7 - 9 pm:**

**Poor People's Campaign Mass Meeting, United Presbyterian Church,  
42 Chenango St.**

*Free and open to the public* Join co-chairs Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis for a Mass Meeting for the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival to learn about the inspiration, vision and strategy of the PPC, as well as the findings of the Truth Commission on Poverty in New York State. The Poor People's Campaign will build a broad and deep national moral fusion movement — rooted in the leadership of the poor and dispossessed as moral agents and reflecting the great moral teachings — to unite our country from the bottom up.

The call for a Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival has emerged from more than a decade of work by grassroots community and religious leaders, organizations and movements fighting to end systemic racism, poverty, militarism, environmental destruction & related injustices and to build a just, sustainable and participatory society. We draw on the history, vision and unfinished work of the 1968 Poor People’s Campaign.

**Wednesday, October 18, 9 am - 6 pm:**

**Faith for a Fair New York Conference, United Presbyterian Church,  
42 Chenango St.**

On Wednesday, join faith, labor and community leaders from across the state to delve more deeply into the Truth Commission's findings, learn about economic and racial justice issues facing New York, and discuss plans for participating in the Poor People's Campaign and strengthening a moral movement in New York State.

**Register at [bit.ly/FFNY2017](http://bit.ly/FFNY2017)**

**Deadline for the October *MOSAIC* is September 18**

***Church Office Closed***

***September 4***





*The Securing Our Future Committee recently received this letter from our architect, Jim Hundt, who has been working with Emmanuel for over twenty years. It is wonderful to hear his confidence in our future. If you have not made a pledge or a donation to this campaign, please contact one of the committee members or pick up a pledge/donation sheet in the office. Committee members are Jean Burton, Liselle LaFrance, Marilyn Malone, and Edith Leet.*

“Dear Emmanuel:

I am so glad to hear that Emmanuel Baptist Church is establishing a fund for ongoing building maintenance. Your congregation has been absolutely amazing in their commitment to the preservation and renovations of your magnificent facilities. I frequently use your church as an example of how urban congregations can maximize their locations and contribute to the community through their built resources. I am glad to see that you are reaching out to your neighbors to assist you in this latest effort.

As I am sure you know, we have had the honor and pleasure of working with Emmanuel Baptist Church since 1996 – over twenty years now! It has been so exciting and rewarding to see the things you have accomplished over those years. I applaud you for your continuing efforts to provide services to the downtown community. You are truly an example of how a church can benefit the entire community.

It is my pleasure to partner with Emmanuel Baptist Church in providing the means to preserve and protect its historic building as a unique part of Albany’s heritage, as well as to enhance its appearance and its usefulness to the people of Albany, by contributing \$500.00. I have every confidence that it will be put to very good use, as you have consistently done over the years.

Best of luck to all of you on your campaign.

Sincerely,  
James Hundt, RA




You are invited to the Installation Service  
for  
***The Reverend David Hall***  
Sunday, October 1, 2017  
2:30 p.m.  
at  
First Baptist Church  
80 Main St.  
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090  
*Refreshments will follow*  
Please RSVP: 518/686-5779





**Coordinating Council:**  
 September 5, 5 pm at Malone's  
**Diaconate:**  
 September 17

Vocal Concert  
**"Stranger in Paradise"**   
 a program of classical

song

**Saturday, September 23, 5 pm**

Irina Ticheninko, mezzo-soprano

Michael Clement, pianist

Admission free; donations accepted

## Happy Birthday...

Ruth Pushee  
 Dorothy Wilburn  
 Judah Appe  
 Ariana Paul  
 Veronica Smith  
 Gillian Horan  
 Pickett Tait Simpson  
 Madison Stroebel  
 Nathan LaBarge  
 Julianna Smith  
 Pat Hunziker  
 Frank Scheu  
 Marion Dickinson  
 Mark Chaffin



1<sup>st</sup>  
 4<sup>th</sup>  
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 21<sup>st</sup>  
 26<sup>th</sup>  
 27<sup>th</sup>  
 29<sup>th</sup>  
 29<sup>th</sup>

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

**PLEASE!!  
 NOTE**

### New Addresses:

**Lucy Wong**  
 325 Kings Rd. Apt. 216  
 Schenectady, NY 12304

### Aidan Chaffin

PO Box 7053  
 Kilachand 0316-R  
 191 Bay State Rd.  
 Boston, MA 02215



To my Loving Emmanuel Family:  
 I have been overwhelmed with all the cards, calls and prayers for my recovery since my total hip replacement on June 29... I continue to treasure your prayers for recovery... I am truly blessed with such a caring loving church family.

-- Pat Campbell

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your many expressions of love and support during this sad and difficult time since Stacy's death. Your cards, notes, conversations and your prayers are deeply appreciated.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the memorial service too. You have been a source of strength and comfort during Stacy's many illnesses and hospitalizations, and you continue to sustain me. I am sincerely grateful.



Warmly,  
 Dorothy



From

**Jasmine Osborne:**

Just a note to say "thank you" for my scholarship to Pathfinder. It was my first time attending camp and I had a wonderful time.



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