

THE MOSAIC

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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

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Pastoral Ponderings

I was out of town for 2 weeks in May. The second week was a family vacation. The first one was a continuing education event focused on worship and spirituality called *Elevation*. About 63 of us gathered at a conference center on Lake Tahoe for this 5-day event. We came from 29 states and represented 8 denominations. Talking with one of the administrative staff late in the week, I learned that I was the only Baptist present. (Odd-Ball Baptists strike again!)

Every year, I look for conferences and seminars which will help improve my leadership at Emmanuel. I am grateful that our budget supports my attendance at high-quality events. At *Elevation*, I learned a number of practical things about worship design. It was also an opportunity to pause and rest, to ponder the question of how it is with my soul, and to feast my eyes on the breath-taking beauty of my surroundings.



Conferences like this are aimed at improvement. Pastors and church leaders come ready to critique our own practices in order to make them better. When such leaders gather, it can become an important venting session, in which leaders can express their frustrations with problems they have been unable to solve or less-than-healthy institutional habits which seem intractable. What almost always happens at those times is that I remember again how blessed I am to serve Emmanuel – not because we are perfect; we aren't – but because we are flexible and creative and mostly willing to change as needed in response to God's call. When other church leaders are griping, I find myself recognizing yet again how many things are right and healthy and good here. Thanks be to God!

Authentic, meaningful worship has been a priority for Emmanuel for a long time. The Rev. Marcia McFee, founder of *Elevation*, defines the mission of worship as **“building up the Body of Christ for its work in the world through encounter with God, the Holy, Living One.”** I am reflecting on that mission and a whole lot of other material she presented. My strong hope is that we will be able to go deeper into that worship mission because of so many things that are already right and healthy and good.

continued...

Here's where you come in: I would like to create a worship design team here at Emmanuel. This is a group of folks who contribute various gifts and skills to make our worship deeper. We need folks with interests in visual arts, media arts, musical arts and verbal arts. It took me a week to understand how this team could work. I need some time to unpack that with you, so I'll be setting up a series of house parties where we can start to work together. I am very excited about this possibility. If you have even a smidgen of interest, please let me know right away. The first party will happen soon.



*Blessings,
Kathy*



“And if anyone is in Christ, there is new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!”
2 Corinthians 5: 17

What does it mean to be a “new creation?” We all yearn for renewal– but are we willing to pursue it? How is our own personal renewal connected to “new creation” in others, in our communities and in the world itself? “Tending” means to lean in the direction of something... to “attend” to something is to nurture it, grow it, build it, pay... “attention!” So this is what we will do together, in worship in June and July.



June 10	Recreating Sabbath	Mark 2:23-3:6, 2 Cor. 4:5-12
June 17	Expanding Kin	Mark 3:20-35
June 24	Living Out Loud	2 Corinthians 6:1-13
July 1	FOCUS Worship	First Church of Albany
July 8	Sharing the New Creation	Mark 6:1-13
July 15	Guest preacher	TBD
July 22	Guest preacher	TBD
July 29	God's Economy	Ephesians 1:3-14



An Update on our Karen and Kachin Partners

The Gethsemane Karen Baptist Church has entered into an agreement to purchase the property of the former St. David’s Episcopal Church in Rensselaer County. New York Law requires a church that is selling property to obtain permission from the Attorney General. That permission has been sought and is expected to be granted soon. The Gethsemane Karen will probably take possession of their new building in the month of June. After the purchase is final, they will do some cleaning and renovation before moving in. On the big

day, they will have a grand opening worship celebration to which Emmanuel folks will be invited. Please stay tuned for more information as things unfold.

The Kachin congregation which has been meeting in fellowship hall on Sunday evenings has moved upstairs to the room on the west landing. This room is kept locked, which allows them to leave their worship space permanently set up. Up to this point, they were setting up and taking down everything every week. We are always open to the possibility of new tenants. Our agreement is that if we discover a tenant who wants to rent that space, the Kachin group will relocate again.

Twelve Ways to Welcome New People

1. Remember that hospitality is at the core of the Gospel.
2. Convey a clear invitation and a statement of welcome in all communications directed at the external community — advertisements, banners, flyers, website, etc.
3. Care for your building and grounds as a way of honoring your attendees and honoring God. A well-cared-for building demonstrates a commitment to excellence and communicates that what the church does is important.
4. Know that 40% of visitors make up their mind about a church before they even see the pastor, according to Barna Research. Within two minutes of the beginning of a service visitors have formed an opinion about whether the congregation is friendly.
5. Escort newcomers to the nursery, classrooms, coffee hour, etc. Don’t just point the way or give directions.
6. Adopt the “rule of three,” which says members will not talk to other members in the first three minutes following the service — typically how long it takes guests to exit.
7. Enact the “circle of ten” rule — that each member will greet anyone, member or guest, who comes within ten feet of them.
8. Say, “I don’t think we’ve met before. ...” if you are not sure if the person next to you is a member or a visitor.
9. Review your church bulletin and other printed material to make sure information is not “insider oriented.” Avoid church jargon and assuming that people understand the context.
10. Keep the discussion of “family business” to a minimum in the services. Limit announcements.
11. Gather feedback on how visitors respond to your church through surveys, focus groups, or interviews.
12. Send your welcome team to visit other churches and report back on how they experienced their reception



Selected from *50 Ways to Welcome New People*,
The Lewis Center for Church Leadership at Wesley Theological Seminary
<https://www.churchleadership.com/50-ways/50-ways-to-welcome-new-people/?id=li20180516>



Open House at Pathfinder Lodge

June 2, 10:00 to 3:00

Rain or Shine

Free lunch, tours, crafts, campfire, fun and fellowship

Questions? Speak with Marilyn Malone or other member of CGD

Pathfinder is in Cooperstown, NY on County Route 31, East Lake Rd. between 20 & 28

(607) 547-2300



IT'S JUNE...PICNIC TIME!

***Please join us for the Annual
Outdoor Worship & Picnic***

NOTE: No service at Emmanuel that day

When: Sunday, June 3, 10:30 a.m. (park opens at 10)

Where: Town of Colonie Mohawk River Park
71 Schermerhorn Rd., Cohoes
(directions are available)



What to bring:

- An appetizer, side dish or dessert
(please indicate which you will bring on the sign up sheet)
- A folding/camp chair for each member of your family coming
- Outdoor games, if you wish
- Insect repellent (optional)
- Sunscreen (optional)
- Hat/visor/sunglasses (optional)

Other Info:

- Meat for the grill will be provided
- Beverages will be provided

If you have questions, you may contact Ellen Corcoran or Karen Green.



All are Welcome!



Emmanuel Endorses Poor People's Campaign
At a special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 20, our congregation voted to endorse the NYS Poor People's Campaign – A National Call for a Moral Revival and its principles. The vote was 21 Yes, 0 No, and 1 abstention. No financial commitment is involved. Emmanuel is already supporting the PPC by providing space for some of its meetings. On April 14, more than 150 people met in our Sanctuary to receive training prior to taking part in a demonstration near the State Capitol. Several folks from Emmanuel were among them. Information on upcoming PPC events is available at

<https://www.facebook.com/NYSPPC/>.



Celebrate Pride...

SUNDAY, JUNE 10

Parade Line-up at 11 a.m.

EBC representatives will be there to hold a place;

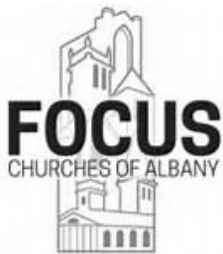
Come and join us after church!

Parade Steps off at Noon

Festival continues (music, food, vendors, people-watching) until 5 pm

Speak with Andrea Carver or Ruth Pushee for more information.





ARE YOU CALLED TO VOLUNTEER?

Here are several opportunities at *FOCUS*: Contact Belinda for more information or to sign up now for any of these: belindaq@focuschurches.net 518-443-0460

- **CURRENT: Sandwich Maker** on Mondays 10-11 am.
- **JUNE: GARDENING IN A BUCKET**

Volunteers sought for this fun community project for youth scheduled for weekdays throughout the month of June. We're ready to hit the road to bring **Gardening in a Bucket** to Albany family shelters, schools and summer day camps again this season.



Children learn about growing and caring for vegetable plants while they decorate pots and assemble a portable garden to take home with them. We also need volunteers to assist the staff. If you can commit an hour or two, please call Becca at 443-0460 for dates, times & locations.

- **JULY: We are seeking a volunteer team to carry out a rehabilitation of the FOCUS Breakfast Program storage room located in Westminster Church.** Over the course of 10 days this team will empty out all supplies and equipment, clean the room, repair walls and floors, paint, and reorganize the supplies on new shelving. We need 1 volunteer to be Project Manager and a total of 5-8 volunteers over the course of the 10 days to carry out the tasks. This is a great project to help build a fellowship amongst our FOCUS member churches and provide a much needed improvement to the FOCUS Breakfast program. Sandwiches and snacks will be provided. Let's do together what we can't do alone!
- **NOVEMBER:** Two cooks for *Wednesday* Winter Breakfast starting the first week in November. Hours are 6:00-9:30 am.

Are you growing veggies this year? Won't you plant an extra row or two to share with the Food Pantry? Contact the FOCUS office if you have questions. (443-0460)



UPDATE on Special Spring Appeal: We have raised over \$12,721. Thank you!



Remember the Food Pantry... June: bar soap



FOCUS Worship

At 50½, FOCUS Churches is asking the questions that middle-aged people might ask: “What is my purpose? Am I living my best life? What is the next chapter God is writing with me?”

As a founding member of FOCUS Churches, Emmanuel has a vested interest in the answers to these questions. **We are FOCUS.** Some of us are involved in a hands-on way – at the pantry or breakfast club or on the board of directors. Some of us make individual contributions, donating goods or financial support. Some of us are not as directly connected, but all of us contribute to a unified budget which supports this ministry. All of us care for the Emmanuel building which provides space for the pantry and the FOCUS office. **We are all FOCUS.**

This is perhaps most clearly seen when we all join together in one place for worship. The vision of ecumenical worship, Baptists and Presbyterians and Methodists and Reformed Church folks all worshipping together, was relatively new when FOCUS was born 50 years ago. It was radical. Now perhaps, we take it for granted. There are three opportunities to worship as FOCUS this summer. Please recognize them for what they are – the realization of a radical vision, the chance to cherish and celebrate who we are, and to wrestle with the important questions of discernment that are presenting themselves at the mid-century mark.



Focus Summer Worship Schedule:

All services will be held at **9:30 a.m.**

- July 1 - at First Church of Albany,
The Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden preaching
- Aug. 5 - at Delmar Reformed
- Sept. 3 - at Westminster Presbyterian
- All are Welcome!*



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED...

for Capital Area Council of Churches

Kidz Lunchbox program

What is the **Kidz Lunchbox** program?

**Free lunches for Children & Teens
in West Hills Neighborhood**

who may not get a lunch during the summer

Lunches prepared at Senior Services are delivered to

- *First Lutheran Church ~ 646 State Street ~ Albany*
- *On Tuesdays & Thursdays by 11:00AM*
- *From June 26th – August 2nd 2018*

How You can help: Call CACC (518) 462-5450 to Volunteer

Help pack Lunches:

- *Volunteers are asked to arrive by 10:30 a.m.*
- *Time commitment: 30 – 45 minutes*
- *Minors must be accompanied by an Adult(s)*
- *Total of 6-8 volunteers needed for program days*
- *Volunteers are always welcome to help us deliver lunches*

Pray for the children and volunteers

Donate to CACC to support the program





Emmanuel Women are invited to meet for lunch at the Pointe restaurant on Thursday, June 7 at 11:45 a.m. If you plan to attend, please contact

Pat Hunziker or Betty Mallory so that adequate seating can be arranged. We hope to see you there!



**Emmanuel Men,
We'll lunch too!**

We will meet at the Pointe the same day, same place as the women on June 7. If you are coming, let Bob Hunziker or Bob Green know so we can reserve a seat **for you.**



**Music at Emmanuel
June 8, 7:30 pm**

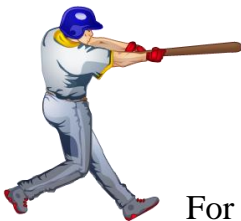
Carla Fisk, soprano

Michael Clement, piano

Music of Chopin and Liszt

Admission free / Donations appreciated

Information: mclement14@nycap.rr.com



**"Take me Out
to the Ballgame"**

For the past several years, we have organized an opportunity to see a game of the Tri-City Valley Cats as a group. Mark your calendar for Sunday, July 29, 5 pm. It is a great time of fellowship and fun. Watch for further information. Questions? Contact Frank or Andrea.



A basket in the parlor contains various "left behind" things. Please take a look. We will

dispose of unclaimed items at the end of June. Thank you.

**Deadline for the summer
issue of *the MOSAIC* is
June 18**

NOTE: that issue will include July and August events



Happy Birthday...

- Audrey Ford
- Claudette Mink
- Elaine Spoor
- Donna Brown
- Danielle Johnson
- Barbara Lahut
- Bob Green
- Sarah Malone
- Eddie Simpson
- Robin Bray
- Adele LaBarge
- Erin Wilkerson
- Ken Cole
- Eh Kui Do
- Edith Leet



- 3rd
- 5th
- 8th
- 8th
- 9th
- 9th
- 10th
- 13th
- 17th
- 18th
- 19th
- 19th
- 19th
- 24th
- 29th

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



**Summer
Begins June 21!**

