

THE MOSAIC

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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

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Pastoral Ponderings

Autumn usually makes me think about endings. It is near the end of the calendar year, the point when crops are harvested for the last time and gardens are put to bed for winter and the leaves of deciduous trees go out in a blaze of glory. It is a season that makes me feel nostalgic and sometimes a bit melancholy and suggests that a walk in a cemetery is in order.

In contrast to those usual seasonal pressures, I am aware of several new things happening in our midst, including a) an interactive process for worship planning, b) the next step toward changing our church governance, c) a revamped website, and d) anticipation of a sabbatical in 2019.

Sunday morning worship is the one event in which almost all of our members participate on a regular basis. When asked for feedback, you have repeatedly said that you value worship experiences that are creative, participatory, relevant and authentic. One of my major tasks is designing and leading worship. I have found much joy in that. I am sharing the joy by inviting you into the worship design process. I do this because I believe that the process itself will be rewarding and that the worship experiences we create together will be richer for everyone. We are just beginning to learn how to work together in this way – come learn with us! We will begin to design for the season of Advent during the week of October 8 and for the weeks between Advent and Lent (January-February this year) during the week of November 11. If you are interested in joining those brainstorming sessions, please let me know as soon as possible. I will be setting the meeting times to fit the availability of the participants.

When I arrived eight years ago, you were discussing the possibility of updating the bylaws. We have moved forward slowly and steadily on the larger question, not of updating the language of that document, but of re-envisioning a governance structure that is more flexible, more appropriate for our congregational size, and one that allows us to be more responsive to ministry opportunities as they arise. See page 2 of this newsletter for a description of the new structure to be presented for approval at the October 21 Congregational Meeting.

continued...

A new church website is launching or will launch soon. We are thankful to Curtis Klope for the new platform, format and some new content. Much of the previous content can be found on the new site, and we appreciate Ruth Pushee's work in curating that material over the last several years.

I will be on sabbatical from May 12 - August 18, 2019. Coordinating Council is appointing a Sabbatical Committee. That committee's work will include developing a sabbatical plan and retaining and supporting a sabbatical supply pastor to provide worship leadership and pastoral care in my absence. Providing a sabbatical is a new thing in Emmanuel's history, and I am grateful for it. My intention is to use the time apart to discern the new things God might be calling me to participate in with you, as well as perhaps the revitalization of some older things. The very best gift of a sabbatical would be that Emmanuel would also experience renewal. If you are interested in serving on a sabbatical committee, please speak with Moderator Edith Leet as soon as possible. To share concerns or questions about that time, please speak with Edith or a member of Pastoral Relations. Other members include Liselle LaFrance, Ken Cole, Betty Mallory and Johnson Din.

*Blessings,
Kathy*



For the last year and a half, the Coordinating Council and some volunteers have been discussing ways to streamline our governance structure to meet the needs of our congregation now and into the future. At our Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 21, at 11:30 a.m., we will hear their report and vote on whether to go ahead with their proposal.

The new structure is designed to involve people in fewer meetings and more ministry. It proposes six Ministry Teams and an Executive Board. The Ministry Teams would be in the areas of Caring and Fellowship, Christian Growth and Development, Membership and Evangelism, Property and Financial Management, Service to Others, and Worship. Unlike our current structure, the Ministry Teams would have two members, each elected for two years on staggered terms. They would propose projects and activities to carry out ministry in their area, but they would not be expected to do all the work themselves. Rather, they would recruit volunteers who are interested in the particular projects or activities to form Work Teams to carry them out. They would also encourage suggestions from the congregation of things they would like to do in each of the areas.

The Executive Board would focus on the vision and mission of Emmanuel and be open to where our people and the Spirit want us to go. The Board would also make decisions that apply to the congregation as a whole. The Board would include the Pastor, the Moderator, and representatives from each of the Ministry Teams.

The group of volunteers and Coordinating Council members who will be making the report are Jean Burton, Judy Henningson, Sam Hill, Edith Leet, and Tony Malone. Please contact one of them if you have questions and comments about the new structure. And mark your calendar now to be there for the vote on Oct. 21.

The Green Corner

by Kathleen Moore

An ecologist, a preacher, and a Native American philosopher walk into a locally-sourced brew pub for a conversation about environmental stewardship. Ok, it's not a joke, actually-- but all three of these sources of learning inform my thinking about "Creation Justice" : the "why" of practicing eco-justice.

The Creation Justice Network of ABC-USA met in Flint, Michigan in mid-September for a listening tour of the city provided by Rev. Deb Conrad of Woodside Church (an ABC congregation) including a dinner where we conversed with a variety of people representing activist groups from Flint. At various tables we learned about the many intertwined issues of Flint's water crisis. Here's a sampling:

- Spanish-speaking people learned about the poisonous water coming from their taps even later than English-speaking people, because the materials that were distributed were not translated, at first, and later, were poorly translated.
- Michigan's Emergency Manager law allowed the Governor to appoint an Emergency Manager who had all the decision-making power, essentially eliminating the roles of the elected City Council and the Mayor. Ten percent of all Michiganders have been under emergency management at some point since 2007. Of these, 73% were Black while only 21% were white despite Michigan itself being less than 15% Black.
- Water customers in both Flint and Detroit continue to have water bills that are unaffordable, leading to shutoffs of water service. This, in a state that has 22% of the *world's* fresh water.

This is just the surface of the failure of government that is represented by the water crisis in Flint and Detroit. But water—*water!* As Baptists water is not only life--as it is for all creatures-- it is a key element of our practice and our spiritual connectedness. What will be our role in stewarding this precious gift of creation? Can we work together to prevent water from becoming the next "hot" commodity ?

This issue of the *Mosaic* launches a series of short articles on the why and how of becoming A Creation Justice Congregation. The CJN of ABC-USA is just starting a program whereby churches can be certified based on their commitment to and activities in reducing energy usage, practicing environmental justice, and raising awareness of the issues like environmental racism.



October 7

With today's busy schedules, October isn't too early to think about Christmas, and there is a special reason to do so this year. Our congregation and the folks at First Church in Albany are joining together to produce a Christmas pageant. Two performances are planned, one on Saturday, December 14, at Emmanuel and one on Sunday, December 15, at First Church. Everyone from the youngest to the oldest can take part. We'll try to keep rehearsals and meetings to a minimum, but we will need planners and other participants and many other willing volunteers to handle all the details of the pageant.

If you want to help, please contact Becca Leet at 518-265-0552 or by email at



fraxillina@gmail.com Together, we can make this the best Christmas pageant ever! (EL)



Adult Sunday School Class
October 28, following worship
Continuing discussion of
On the Brink of Everything by Parker Palmer
"Young & Old: The Dance of the Generations"
focuses on creative engagement with the young. When young and old are connected like the poles of a battery, the power that's released enlivens both parties and helps light up the world.



World Mission Offering to be Received:

October 14 & 21

Theme: "You are the Salt of the Earth"

Watch for details!





Cider & Chili, & Pumpkins, Oh my!!!

Come warm your fingers, toes, & heart as we celebrate God's bounty!! (and cooler weather!!)

Bring your family, neighbors, & friends!! Be ready for good food, good fellowship, games, prizes, pumpkin painting, and costume parade!!

WHAT -- Fall Festival

WHEN -- Sunday, Oct 28, 12:30-2:30
(after Sunday School)

WHERE -- Emmanuel Baptist,
outside & inside

WHO -- Everyone!!
(this means you!!)



Emmanuel Women are invited to meet for lunch at the Pointe restaurant on Thursday, October 4 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!

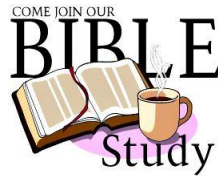


We will meet at the Pointe the same day, same place as the women on October 4. If you are coming, please let Bob Hunziker or Bob Green know so we can reserve a seat for you.

**Deadline for the
November MOSAIC:
October 18**

**Congregational Meeting:
October 21**

Commissions will also meet.



Mid-week Bible study has resumed. Join us each Wednesday at 1:00 pm for lectionary discussion. Bring a bag lunch if you wish;

beverages will be provided. All are welcome! If you have questions, you may contact Marilyn Malone.

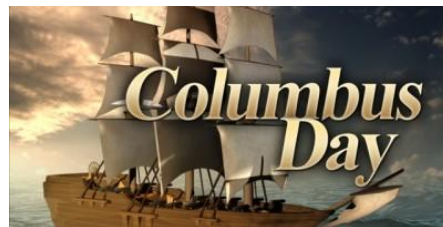


FOCUS Food Pantry Plans Ahead

As in past years, the Food Pantry will include special food items as part of the groceries offered to guests during the holiday season. To that end, Emmanuel is asked to provide *cake mixes and frosting*. The collection will continue until November 26. Donations may be left in the basket designated "Food Pantry".

**Remember the
Food Pantry...**

*deodorant and
shampoo*



**Church
Office
Closed
October 8**

Happy Birthday...

Chris Moaton
Marilyn Malone
Warren Burton
Bien Baez
Julie Shaw
Taylor Stroebel
Bernie Kennedy
Madeline Green
Heather Green



1st
6th
6th
11th
13th

20th
23rd
28th

Belated birthday greetings to *Jan Curtis* who celebrated on September 21.

Emmanuel Baptist Church
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Albany, NY 12210



