

THE MOSAIC

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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

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Pastoral Ponderings

Before Halloween was Halloween, it was All Hallows' Eve, the night before All Saints Day. All Saints is the time in the church calendar to remember the faithful who have died. Some people understand the word "saint" to mean someone who is especially righteous or faithful or gifted at serving others. Most Baptists use the word to refer to anyone, living or dead, who is part of the Christian community. Baptists are also not into creeds, those statements of faith articulated by the church for the church. Even though we don't use the words of the creeds as a litmus test for acceptance and fellowship, many of them have found their way into our minds, so that we may remember random phrases from them, much as we remember bits of Scripture.

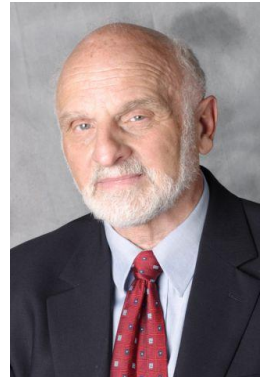
The Apostle's Creed affirms belief in the communion of the saints. Again, while Baptists might reject the use of a creed, many would readily agree with this concept. Communion of the saints is the idea that Christians have a spiritual bond, that we connect with each other across time and space because of our shared faith in Jesus. Communion of the saints is most readily apparent to me when I read the writings of other Christians. Sometimes they are alive and writing on the other side of town, or the other side of the world. Sometimes I'm reading words from another century whose author has long since joined the great cloud of witnesses. The experiences and thoughts of other saints, known to me only in the words they share, is probably one of the greatest contributions to my own faith, second only to the Bible itself.

I find strength, as many of you do, in the words of people like Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Dr. King and John Bunyan, all of whom wrote some of their best work from prison. I am also inspired by the stories behind many of our well-loved hymns, the usually difficult experiences which resulted in their composition. Communing with the saints through word and song reminds me that whatever I am facing today, others have faced similar and even more difficult circumstances with courage and grace and faith. That gives me hope.

continued...

We lament the brokenness of our world. The occasions of openly-voiced hate speech and fear-mongering and even deadly violence seem to be escalating, coming one on top of another at an alarming rate. As people who follow Jesus' way of non-violent love and justice, we wonder how to respond, how to heal the wounded, how to pursue the things that make for peace. And we pray, "Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy upon us."

Walter Brueggemann's name is one you hear often in my sermons. Brueggemann, an ordained United Church of Christ minister, is 85 years old. He was professor of Old Testament for four decades. I have had the pleasure of hearing him preach, but his most lasting influence on me will be found in the 58 books he wrote. Here are some of his words which I am holding close right now:



The world is God's and it will not fall apart. The new age which the Lord has begun cannot be driven out or held back. The church need not live out of fear as though the gospel were not true. It is destined to live toward freedom, toward the pain of the world, toward the hurt of the world, toward the joy of the world—the hurt and pain the world does not understand and the joy the world does not anticipate. (Peace: Understanding Biblical Themes Series, p. 155)

In the past months we have *Imagined the People of God* and boldly claimed that title for ourselves. We have continued on a spiritual journey *Moving Out of Scare City*, putting our trust in the gospel's alternative of love to the culture of enmity and fear at work in our world. These words from our brother Walter encourage me to respond to the world's brokenness with courage and hope. Let us continue to be who God has called us to be – a faithful community enacting God's reconciling work in Jesus by welcoming the stranger, binding up the broken-hearted and proclaiming liberty to those who are oppressed.



*Blessings,
Kathy*

Pledge Sunday & Celebration Luncheon November 4

We complete the journey, moving Out of Scarcity into Abundance. Please join us for worship which will include offering our financial pledges, a demonstration of our desire to exercise trust in God's abundance and sharing in Holy Communion. Stay for a delicious catered luncheon. There is no cost for the meal. However, because it will be catered, **reservations are necessary.**

The Menu:

Ravioli al Pomodoro
Fettucini Alfredo
Chicken Limone
Italian Broccoli Romano
Mixed Green Salad
Brownies and Cookies





This image, from Micah J. Murray’s Facebook page, resonated with many of us in worship on October 28. It sums up the longing for a faith that is authentic, that is found in community, that lends us courage when we are afraid and helps us to believe when we doubt. It is a yearning that so many people are feeling. Some of us experience that kind of community at Emmanuel. Some of us at Emmanuel would like to offer that kind of community to others.

As I anticipate sabbatical renewal time next year, one of my most pressing questions is about how to allocate time and energy to create and sustain authentic community which reaches beyond our current congregation to welcome and receive others. Your thoughtful, honest answers to these questions will be very valuable to me in that process.

This survey will be distributed at church on Sundays in November.

What is most important to you about Sunday morning worship?

- a) Relating to people I haven’t seen all week
- b) Sharing prayer concerns
- c) Music
- d) The sermon
- e) Other: _____

If Kathy suddenly adopted a brand-new preaching style, what one thing would you want her to keep from her current sermons:

- a) Explanation of the Biblical history and context for a given passage
- b) Application to current events
- c) Use of images and/or video on the screen
- d) Personal and contemporary stories
- e) Other: _____

Some people not currently involved in a faith community may engage with us more easily through the ways we embody Christ’s reign in the world, i.e. in a community ministry of love and justice. Please indicate your level of willingness to participate in a hands-on activity in each of the following areas.

- a) Anti-racism efforts – might include educational opportunities, like a book study or a movie night or developing a relationship with a church that is predominantly non-white, or something we haven’t thought of yet
I would be willing to invest
_____ 0 hours _____ 1-2 hours per week _____ 1-2 hours per month
- b) Welcoming the Stranger/Immigrant – might include accompaniment for those at risk for deportation, visiting detainees at Albany Jail or other facilities, partnering with USCRI to provide direct services or with an immigrants rights group in Albany, or something we haven’t thought of yet
I would be willing to invest
_____ 0 hours _____ 1-2 hours per week _____ 1-2 hours per month
- c) Another community ministry of love and justice that I would be willing to engage is:

I would be willing to invest
_____ 0 hours _____ 1-2 hours per week _____ 1-2 hours per month

As you think about the question of creating and sustaining authentic faith community and extending that to those beyond our current congregation, what other factors are important to take into consideration? What else would you like Kathy to be thinking about?



Pursuing Peace: Lament and Hope

Wednesday, November 7

12:00 noon

The election may or may not signal a change in governance. It will provide a temporary end to campaigning and the acrimony and division that accompanies it. Setting aside disputes and hostility and partisan polarization, we will focus on healing for our nation, our city, our communities. Please join us as we host a time of service of music, silence, readings and prayer on the day following the election. All are welcome.

Please note that street parking is limited and there is no access to the Realtor's Association lot. Please plan to carpool and park in Washington Park three blocks west of the church.



Capital Area Baptist Association

2018 Annual Meeting

Saturday, November 17, 2018

Latham Community Baptist Church

109 Forts Ferry Road

Latham, New York

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM

Registration with Light Continental Breakfast



Adult Sunday School Class

November 11

Continuing discussion of

On the Brink of Everything by Parker Palmer

"Getting Real: From Illusion to Reality"

Some words of summary by the author:

"reflects on the spiritual life, which I understand as an endless effort to penetrate illusion and touch reality – a vital task at any age and an imperative for aging well"



Pre-Advent Intergenerational Event

November 25, after worship

We are collecting Christmas fabric and ribbon for a special art project.

Please give any donations to Audrey Ford by Sunday, November 18.

From the Moderator...

Council Adopts Sexual Harassment Policy

In compliance with a New York State requirement, Coordinating Council has adopted a Sexual Harassment Policy. The policy uses a model provided by New York State. It is intended to protect employees of the church and those hired by contractors and others to do work at the church. It defines sexual harassment and provides ways for those who experience sexual harassment or are made aware of its happening to report incidents to the Pastor or Moderator and have them investigated and resolved. It also provides ways for employees to protest any repercussions they receive from their employer for making such reports.

Another provision of the policy requires Emmanuel to provide training within the next year to prevent sexual harassment from occurring. The policy is available in the Church Office or will be emailed by request to the Moderator at edith.leet@outlook.com.

Congregation to Experiment with New Governance Structure in 2019

At its meeting on Oct. 21, the Congregation voted unanimously to suspend portions of our Constitution and Bylaws in order to experiment with a different form of government in 2019.

The experiment will replace Coordinating Council with an Executive Board. The six Commissions of six members each will be replaced by six Ministry Teams of two members each. Each Ministry Team will supervise the area of church life now handled by a Commission. It will determine what activities and events are needed, and it will then recruit people to carry out those activities and events. Each Ministry Team will also be open to suggestions from the congregation for new activities and events.

Christmas Pageant Cancelled

The Christmas Pageant proposed for Dec. 15 and 16 in partnership with First Church in Albany has been cancelled. The Planning Committee did not find enough support in either church to carry the project through. Many thanks to those who did come forward and offer to participate, especially the choirs. The Committee hopes that the project might succeed in a future year.



During the Advent and Lenten seasons of our church calendar, the sanctuary is enhanced by beautiful decorations that help us prepare our heart and minds for worship. Every year poinsettias and lilies are part of those enhancements.

There is no budget for these flowers, and therefore, we depend upon your generosity to help purchase them. Plants are generally given to shut-ins, the sick or to the people who have purchased the plant for themselves. Please consider being part of this important ministry.

Thank you. Karen Green

From Service to Others...

Baptist Peace Fellowship (Bautistas por la Paz) is combining its summer conference with the Global Baptist Peace Conference to be held in Cali, Colombia July 15 – 20, 2019. In some ways, this flows from the Baptist Peace Camp held in Mexico in 2017.



The Global Baptist Peace Conference is a continuation of a series of influential global peace conferences that began in 1988 in Sweden. Past gatherings have sparked an immense amount of effective grassroots work, and many individual peacemakers have been inspired and equipped to continue their own creative and courageous work. This conference will build on the important work of Baptists engaged in peacemaking processes around the globe and will equip those engaged in ecumenical and interfaith peacebuilding around the world.

The theme of the conference is “Peace in our land: toward a world without violence.”

Service to Others plans to include some funding in its budget to assist Emmanuel members who decide to attend. If you are interested in going to the conference or if you have any questions, speak with Nancy Horan. To read more about the event, go to: <https://www.globalbaptistpeace2019.org>



Dinner Deliveries to Resume

During the winter months, Emmanuel supports both the Emergency Overflow Shelter at First Lutheran Church and the Shelter at Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless by occasionally providing home cooked dinners for their guests.

On **November 16**, we will deliver food to the Emergency Overflow Shelter.

Can you help by preparing a pot of stew that will serve ten people? Karen Kendall is organizing the supper so please let her know. Guests are always sincerely grateful for these special meals.



Beginning on November 18 and continuing through December 16, we will collect laundry detergent for the Interfaith Shelter. They welcome your contributions. Donations may be placed in the laundry hamper that you will find in the sanctuary.



Volunteer Needed for Pantry Advisory Board

We are looking for a volunteer to serve on the FOCUS Food Pantry Advisory Board. The Board meets three times a year on the third Friday of November, January, and March. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Kathy or Edith Leet, Moderator.



Emmanuel

Women are invited to meet for lunch at the Pointe restaurant on **Thursday, November 1** 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 – **November 1**. If you are coming, please let Bob Hunziker or Bob Green know so we can reserve a seat for you.



**Deadline for the
December MOSAIC:**

November 18

Commissions will meet:

November 18

David Malone's address for the next year:

316 S. Church St.
Elkhorn, WI 53121



Work Day Scheduled

There will be a work day at EBC on Monday, November 12, probably from 10:00 to 1:00, but time is flexible. An important task is cleaning out the gym closets,

where costumes, craft supplies and many other miscellaneous items are stored. We can also organize our Christmas decorations. Young people are especially encouraged to help out. Come, see what treasures we'll find!

There will likely be other work projects as well, depending on who is there.



FOCUS Food Pantry Offers Extra Items

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...**

*Razors,
shampoo*



Happy Birthday...

November



Judith Henningson	8 th
Jon Stroebel	13 th
Heather LaBarge	14 th
Tajier Ford	20 th
Pat Campbell	22 nd

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

Daylight Saving Time ends

"fall back"

November 4



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Albany, NY 12210

