

# THE MOSAIC

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## *Sabbatical Plan*



I am very grateful that Emmanuel has provided several weeks of renewal time in 2019. We have been preparing for this for a couple of years. My own preparation has included reading some books about the do's and don't's of clergy renewal, talking with colleagues about their own experiences, and allowing myself to consider some real bucket-list possibilities. Some of you have asked my plans. Some of you have asked about the plan for the church in my absence. Those are very good questions, which I will begin to answer here. More details are being worked out by the Sabbatical Committee and will be shared as decisions are made.

My leave is from May 6 through August 24. May 5 will be my final Sunday at EBC before sabbatical. I will preach that day and the supply pastor (who has not yet been named) will be present. Within the worship time, we will formally recognize my leave-taking and welcome that person's service. On August 25, I will be back in worship, with the supply person doing the preaching, and we will formally recognize that person's end of service and my return. On September 1, I will preach for the first time after sabbatical. On that day, EBC will also be hosting a summer FOCUS service.

I have several hopes for this Sabbath time. I have chosen particular activities as a route to realizing those hopes, but I am most interested in re-connecting to my own sense of vocation which will mean listening for and following the lead of the Holy Spirit. So, when I return with stories about sabbatical, it will be interesting to see how much I adhered to the plan and how much I deviated from it.

One of my hopes is to rekindle the gifts of God within me, to pay attention to my vocational passions. I am compiling a long list of books to be enjoyed in my hammock or sitting by my pond or any other body of water I might find. This list, which I can share with those who really want it, is mostly focused on the issues of racism and immigration, in which the social justice needs of day call to me most compellingly.

I am also keenly interested in churches that are creatively finding their way into forms of ministry responsive to their own contexts. I plan to visit at least three churches to see what I might learn from them. These churches share some important characteristics with Emmanuel. They are each in urban settings, committed to full inclusion, and governed by a framework of congregational polity which depends on the faith community to empower the ministry they do together. The churches I will visit are First Baptist Church Jamaica Plain, Old Cambridge Baptist Church (both in the Boston area) and Gilead (Chicago.)

*continued...*

**FBC Jamaica Plain** is a sister congregation, affiliated with American Baptists, the Alliance of Baptists and the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists. The Rev. Ashlee Wiest-Laird, one of my seminary classmates, was called there as a redevelopment pastor in 2003. Under her leadership, the church has grown to require the addition of more pastoral staff. Ashlee is a white woman and the associate pastor, the Rev. Darrell Hamilton, is an African-American man. The congregation and the staff intentionally reflect the multicultural neighborhood of Jamaica Plain. The church's worship is shaped in part by the loss of their sanctuary to a devastating fire in 2005. Like EBC, they no longer have pews. The church's programmatic ministries include a First Fridays open mic night for youth and young adults and regular Black Lives Matter vigils. They are a contextual education site for Boston University School of Theology and they value the privilege of helping to shape future ministers.

Joanna Nadeau, former Emmanuelite, has found a spiritual home at **Old Cambridge Baptist Church**. She says "It's eerily similar to EBC in that it has a vibrant life of people who are deeply invested in each other and a shared mission, exquisite musical spiritual expression, is immigrant-connected, and seeks to be family-friendly while struggling to establish any critical mass of children attending services." OCBC's pastor, the Rev. Dr. Cody Sanders is a Southern-born young gay man who also serves as the American Baptist chaplain at Harvard. The church is regularly involved in actions in the areas of racial justice, immigrant justice and environmental justice.

**Gilead** is a two-year-old church planted in the Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago. It is affiliated with two denominations – The United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ. The name Gilead indicates their intention to be a place of healing. They relate to God and each other through three primary tasks—telling true stories, growing and eating good food and creating beautiful worship. My friend Vince Amlin is one of the pastors there. I expect that he may help me connect with other interesting Chicago churches from whom I can learn.

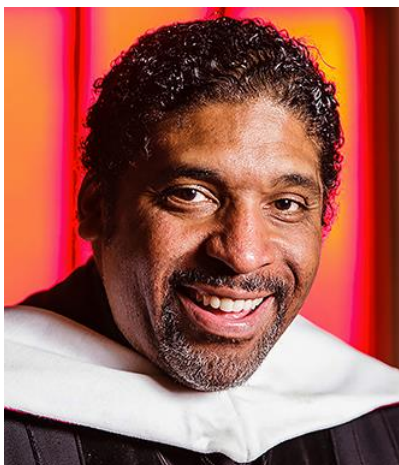
Another strong sabbatical hope is to enjoy some unencumbered time with family and friends. We start with a trip to California for Molly's med school graduation. Shortly after that, Jim, Molly, Erin and I will travel to Europe. Our itinerary was worked out through collaboration and compromise, a family project in cooperation. Our destinations include Finland, Estonia, Denmark and Germany. Later in the summer, Jim and I have invited my brother on a kayaking trip in Canada. I generally see my brother about once a year, when I am somewhat distracted with Christmas Eve responsibilities, so I am very much looking forward to this trip. Finally, two different long-time friends from my high school and college days, have each independently inquired about coming to visit us this summer. I have not seen either of them in at least 10 years. My heart lifts when I think about catching up with them.

I expect to return with good energy and sense of purpose for our ministry together. The pastor's renewal should be conducive to the church's renewal in the long-term. In the short-term, please remember that the pastor is not the church. The disciples of Jesus are the church. Please continue to be that for each other and for our community while I am away.

Thank you for providing this time away. I am not gone yet. The Worship Design Team is planning a very interesting Lenten series, and I will remain fully engaged through May 6. Let's keep talking.

*Blessings,  
Kathy*





Leading American civil rights activist and author Rev. William Barber II headlines the University at Albany's Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration on **Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. in the Campus Center Ballroom. Doors open at 6 p.m.**

Known for his compelling oratory, Barber has been a leading voice in the Fight for \$15 to raise the minimum wage, a proponent of economic justice for the poor and the homeless, and an advocate for the LGBTQ community.

Barber gained national attention as architect of the Forward Together Moral Movement, which organized regular Moral Monday protests at the North Carolina state capitol beginning in 2013 in response to social justice issues in the state, including voting rights and cuts to social programs. These protests continued for four years, drawing tens of thousands of participants. In addition to that work, he is co-chair, with Rev. Liz Theoharis, of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival Together.

There will be a free reception in the Campus Center from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. before the program begins. The event is open to the public. **Admission is free. However, advance registration is required at <http://ualbany.universitytickets.com>**



Everyone's Irish  
On March 17th.

### Join us for a Party!

Following Sunday School on March 17, you are invited to enjoy a corned beef dinner, games, songs, and other activities with an Irish theme. It's an event for all ages so mark your calendar and watch for more details. If you have questions, you may contact Becca, 518-265-0552, [fraxillina@gmail.com](mailto:fraxillina@gmail.com); Edith, 518-482-6612, [edith.leet@outlook.com](mailto:edith.leet@outlook.com); or Ian, 518-265-0550, [ian.leet@outlook.com](mailto:ian.leet@outlook.com).

Remember the  
Food Pantry...



**February:**  
*feminine hygiene products*



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

### Happy Birthday...

- Betty Mallory
- Wes Kendall
- Bob Hunziker
- Becca Leet
- David Green
- Tim Bray
- Cassandra Paul
- Samantha Paul
- Gwendolyn Osborne
- Gail Hill



- 1<sup>st</sup>
- 5<sup>th</sup>
- 6<sup>th</sup>
- 15<sup>th</sup>
- 16<sup>th</sup>
- 18<sup>th</sup>
- 18<sup>th</sup>
- 18<sup>th</sup>
- 21<sup>st</sup>
- 28<sup>th</sup>

**Church Office  
Closed:  
February 18**





**PEACE IN OUR LAND:  
TOWARD A WORLD WITHOUT VIOLENCE  
JULY 15-20 2019 • UNIBAUTISTA •  
CALI, COLOMBIA**

This is a serious invitation to consider being part of the Global Baptist Peace Conference in Cali, Columbia this summer.

This event is a continuation of a series of influential global peace conferences that began in 1988 in Sweden. The 2019 gathering is happening in Cali, Columbia principally to recognize, honor, and learn from the extraordinary accomplishment of the Columbian Peace Accord. If you are passionate about nonviolence, social justice and strengthening the global witness for peace, this invitation is for you. Plenary sessions, workshops and trainings will provide the resources to ignite more of the regional and grassroots movements for peace the earlier Global Baptist Peace Conferences have inspired.

No, you do not have to speak Spanish. Sessions will be offered with simultaneous translation. Yes, you do need a passport. Many more details available at <https://www.globalbaptistpeace2019.org/>

Emmanuel has anticipated using funds from the Service to Others contingency account to support this conference. If you want to attend, there is money to help with travel expenses. If you are even just thinking about going, please speak with Pastor Kathy or ministry area coordinators Liselle LaFrance or Andrea Carver by March 1. This kind of global Baptist peace gathering does not happen very often. You don't want to miss it.

**2019 is a Biennial Year** – every other year members of American Baptist Churches gather for a little bit of business and a lot of education and encouragement.

The list of speakers is impressive, in the diversity represented both by the speakers themselves and the variety of topics covered. There will be longer track educational sessions (the Biennial Academy) and shorter individual sessions plus meal-time events with various agencies including the Baptist Peace Fellowship. There are too many events crammed into June 21-23 to list here, including those for children and youth. Please see the <http://www.abc-usa.org/> website for much more information.

The little bit of business to be conducted includes the election of a slate of officers and representatives to the General Board, including the nomination of our own Marilyn Malone! Early registration closes March 15. EBC has some funds to help. If you are interested, please speak with Pastor Kathy or Marilyn.

