

THE MOSAIC

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Pastoral Ponderings

Altar, Sonora, Mexico is about a one-hour drive from Nogales, Arizona by car. The town has long been a staging area for migrants, an oasis before the trip through the desert. In the late 1990's and early 2000's, the local criminal activity involved paying *coyotes* as guides to get people across the border illegally. Today, two rival drug cartels compete to control access to the border organizing drug trafficking

and human trafficking. Migrants are routinely extorted, kidnapped and killed.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church has a ministry to migrants which has changed to meet the changing needs. Twenty years ago, they were serving a hot meal to migrants who slept outdoors on the town plaza. Now they have built and staffed a shelter where people can sleep safely and receive medical care and information and strategies about surviving in the desert. The priest, Father Prisciliano Peraza, has been known to negotiate with the drug cartels for the release of hostages and he even helps women who are crossing get access to birth control. That's a venial sin in Catholic theology, but he does it anyway because he knows that 80% of women migrants are sexually assaulted.

One prayer has become central to this church. It is painted on the wall in the migrant shelter and is recited at the end of every mass in the church.

Prayer for My Brother and Sister Migrants

Heart of Jesus, full of love and mercy, watch over my sister and brother migrants. Have pity on them and protect them. They suffer mistreatment and humiliations on their way, are looked upon as dangerous by most, and marginalized for being foreigners. Help us to respect them and appreciate their dignity. Touch with your goodness the hearts of we who see them pass by. Take care of their families until they return home, not with broken hearts but with their hopes fulfilled. May it be so. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen

continued...

I notice how this prayer is deeply intertwined with their ministry. It is a prayer for those they serve, but also a prayer for themselves, that as they serve they will keep what is important in front of them. The result is that prayer sustains the ministry and the ministry sustains the prayer. I love that.

Lent is the 6-week season that leads into Easter. It is historically a season of intentional discipleship. It was often a time in which new converts made final preparations for baptism. For the already baptized, it was a time of more intentional spiritual discipline. This year our Lenten focus invites us to **LISTEN**. It is an invitation to prayer and silence, to examination of our lives and to keeping front and center those things which are most important. See inside this newsletter for more details.

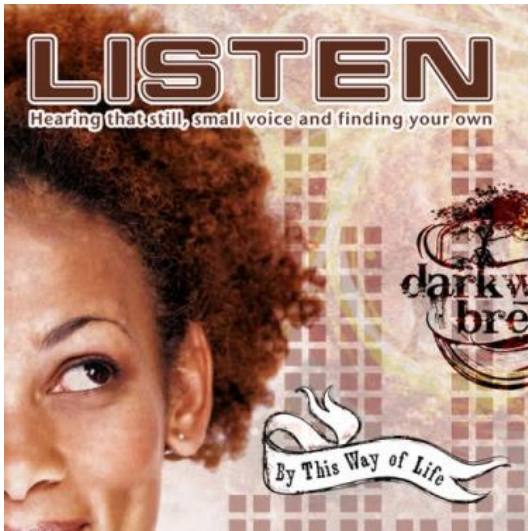
Please be present for worship as we *listen* together. I hope that we might find prayer that sustains our ministry and ministry that sustains our prayer.

*Blessings,
Kathy*



Emmanuel hosted the Winter Worship of the FOCUS Churches on February 3. Jasmine Osborne delivered the Affirmation of Children, reading a picture book version of Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech.





Adult Spiritual Formation in Lent

11:30-12:30 in the Parlor

March 10 – April 14

Note: No class on April 7 due to an Executive Team Dreaming session.

This series looks at many ways that the voice of God speaks to us, and explores things we can do to strengthen that connection. From meditation and music to study and social action, video guests look for the voice of the spirit...and find it active in surprising places. Most weeks the Scripture will coincide with what was used in worship.

March 10

Finding Your Cave

I Kings 19:9-16

Guest Bishop Yvette Flunder is a third generation preacher with roots in the Church of God in Christ. She is ordained in that tradition and also in the United Church of Christ. She sings and records gospel music.

March 17

Breathe!

Romans 8: 26-30, 38-39

Guest Jack Levison was raised in a small tract house in Levittown, New York. He now teaches Old Testament at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas. His many books cover a range of topics from Early Judaism to contemporary theologies, from inspiration to gender studies, with a strong interest in the Holy Spirit.

March 24

Contemplation: Centering Prayer

Psalms 46:1-11

Guest Phileena Heuertz is an author, spiritual director, yoga instructor, public speaker and retreat guide, who is passionate about spirituality and making the world a better place.

March 31

Prayer and Healing

Mark 5:24-34

Guest Bruce Epperly is a practical theologian, pastor, spiritual guide, author, and leader in faith formation. He has served as a pastor in the Disciples of Christ tradition and on the staff of Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster, PA.

April 14

Do You Want To Be Made Well?

John 5:1-9

Guest Doug Pagitt is a possibility enthusiast who seeks to find creative, entrepreneurial and generative ways to enlist people to join in the hopes, dreams and desires God has for the world. Doug is the founding pastor of Solomon's Porch, a holistic missional Christian community in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



Wednesday, March 6

6:00 p.m.

service of prayer and contemplation...
ashes available...

soup & bread supper



LENT 2019

March 6 - April 20

Worship at

10:00 a.m. Sundays

11:30 Adult Spiritual Formation

6:00 p.m. simple supper

on Ash Wednesday, March 6

5:30 p.m. meal followed by worship

on Maundy Thursday, April 18

“Come and rest. Come and listen. Lay the fullness of your lives before the Maker.” That’s the invitation before us this Lent. The structure of Sunday morning worship this season will provide opportunities to enhance the ways we listen for God as we simply rest in God’s presence. Our community worship time will include music, prayer, spoken words and silences – in some combinations slightly different from our usual. For this Lenten journey, pack your rucksack with a willingness to explore a new prayer practice or two and to let go of familiar rituals temporarily (just for six Sundays).

Each week, we will include the practices of *examen* and *lectio divina*. *The Examen* is one of the spiritual exercises developed by St. Ignatius Loyola, in Spain, in the 1500’s. The long form invites a person to review the events of the day in the presence of God, giving thanks and offering repentance as appropriate. Our shorter form will invite a simpler review of the events of our week, with gratitude and confession. The Bible passage each week will be done using *lectio divina*, which involves listening to it one time for a word or phrase that stands out in a particular way at this time. After an interval, the text is read again to allow a second, deeper listening. In the interval between the two readings, our choir will provide an anthem for a different kind of listening pleasure.

The sermon or homily will be much shorter this season. This is to provide time to keep an appointment with God at one of several listening stations. The listening stations will be in designated spaces around the sanctuary. Each week you may choose to engage in one or more stations. The stations will include

- a) lighting a candle for a prayerful purpose,
- b) journaling in one of the booklets hand-made for this purpose,
- c) writing a request for yourself or someone else and depositing it within a prayer wall,
- d) confessing something you need to let go and releasing it into water,
- e) sitting or kneeling in a designated space to listen for God
- f) presenting your tithes and offerings in obedience and gratitude

“Meet me here. Find me in my wanderings. Meet me here. Deep within my soul.”

Those are the lyrics to one of our weekly prayer songs. Perhaps they set up resonance in you. Come and rest. Come and listen as we lay the fullness of our lives before God together.



From the Moderator

A dozen members of the new governing structure met after church on February tenth. Officers and members of each ministry team were represented. In a meeting that ran a little over an hour, we covered regular church business and did a little dreaming about communications, how to get our new structure to work and how to set priorities for the upcoming year. You will be hearing more from the ministry teams soon.



Two changes are of special note. Communion in previous years was rotated among the Diaconate commissions. Looking forward, we are inviting all members of our community to serve communion. There will be a sign-up sheet involved (of course). Each month, we will be looking for volunteers. If you are interested in serving this important ordinance, please sign up so that we will know you are available.

The second change is in our meeting schedule. It was proposed that we meet twice a month. One meeting will focus on “business” matters such as building use and calendar issues. The second meeting will be more of a dreaming/brainstorming session and will be held during adult Sunday school time (11:40ish a.m.). We will serve a light lunch. All are welcome to attend. -- J. Henningson

From Service to Others

Offering: March 3 & 10

Your gifts help support home mission across the United States and Puerto Rico with 29% of total gifts returning to the New York Region. Envelopes will be provided for your convenience.

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING

Giving Christ Offering

Ministry of caring and nurturing
the Lord requires
building up love and faith.

Humanity and encouragement
sustaining the children of God
lightening the burdens of community.

Nurturing a community
with healing and transformation
Sharing the love of Christ.

-- Andrea Gaylord

It's coming... It's Coming...

July 15-20, 2019

Baptist Peace Camp joins with Global Baptist Peace Conference in Cali, Colombia. 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.

Service to Others has money reserved for this event. Please see Andrea or Liselle if you have questions. More information at <https://www.globalbaptistpeace2019.org/>



The Sabbatical Committee is pleased to announce that the Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff will provide significant worship and pastoral care coverage for the period of time that Pastor Kathy is on sabbatical in the spring and summer. Pastor Heather has preached at Emmanuel twice this year and is also known to us as the Wednesday Pastor at the Winter Breakfast Club.



Pastor Heather grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota, the daughter of a Quaker father and an Episcopalian mother. After earning her M. Div. from Harvard Divinity School in 1994, she was ordained by the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ. For 12 years, she served the Kittamaqundi Community Church in Columbia, Maryland in the tradition of the Church of the Savior, which is outside her ordaining denomination. Her husband Dan, is Jewish, so she is well acquainted with ecumenical and interfaith relationships. Since moving to Albany in 2017, she has provided pulpit supply to several churches, been involved in prison ministry and served as interim campus minister at Union College.

For 16 weeks, from May 5 through August 25, Pastor Heather will take on responsibilities for coordinating and preaching at Sunday worship services, providing hospital visitation and care for other pastoral urgencies including funerals, encouraging efforts to coordinate congregational spiritual growth along a path parallel with Pastor Kathy's sabbatical plan. Working an average of 20 hours per week, Pastor Heather will be in regular communication with the Executive Team and the moderator. There are some Sundays where she has identified pre-existing obligations, and her participation is not expected at the FOCUS summer services.

Plans are in the works now for a special service and potluck luncheon on May 5. Worship that day will include a formal leave-taking for Pastor Kathy and welcome to Pastor Heather, a sermon by Pastor Kathy and sharing in communion.

We hope you are excited about sharing our space, our time, dreams and our congregational culture with Pastor Heather. We welcome any questions you may have about these plans. Please share your questions or concerns with Pastor Kathy, moderator Judy Henningson or any of the members of the sabbatical committee.



A service of Christian worship in celebration of the life of Marjorie Fuller and in the sure and certain hope of resurrection will be held at Emmanuel at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 20.

You are invited to contribute to the cost of Easter lilies which will be delivered to members of our church family. The cost of the plants is \$12 each. Please use the form below to indicate your interest and return it to Karen Green. Thank you!

- =====
- I plan to purchase a lily (\$12) and take it home.
 - I plan to purchase a lily and donate it to a church member.
 - I am available to deliver a plant.

NAME: _____





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 be sure to sign up. If you have questions, you may contact Becca, 518-265-0552, fraxillina@gmail.com; Edith, 518-482-6612, edith.leet@outlook.com; or Ian, 518-265-0550, ian.leet@outlook.com.



You're Invited!

Ladies, Let's have Lunch!

You are invited to meet for lunch at Diner Time in Latham on **Thursday, March 7** at 11:45 a.m. If you plan to attend, please contact Pat Hunziker so that adequate seating can be arranged. We hope to see you there!

Emmanuel Men, We'll Gather too!

We will meet, same day, same place as the women – March 7. If you are coming, please let Bob Hunziker or Bob Green know so we can reserve a seat for you.



Executive "Dreaming" Team: March 3
Executive Business Meeting: March 11

Remember the Food Pantry...

March:

razors and shampoo

Happy Birthday...

Sally Cole
Jasmine Osborne
Jonathan Malone
Rory Garner
Lucy Wong
Olivia LaBarge



2nd
5th
10th
13th
22nd
30th

Deadline for the April MOSAIC is March 18



"Family Matters!":

*a Cabaret of songs and choruses on the theme
Mamas, Papas,
Sibling Revelry, Cousins,
Uncles, and Aunts*

Emmanuel Baptist Choir & Friends

Saturday, March 30, 7 pm

Admission Free/Donations Appreciated

Free Beverages

Desserts for sale

to benefit

Church Music Program



**Daylight Saving
Time Begins
March 10!**



Begins March 20

Emmanuel Baptist Church
275 State St.
Albany, NY 12210

