

# THE MOSAIC

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**EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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## *Pastoral Ponderings*



Friends,

I'm writing to you on my last week of as your sabbatical substitute pastor. This coming Sunday, I'm looking forward to sharing worship with you one more time and then joining in with lunch as you welcome Pastor Kathy back. I'm not saying goodbye since I hope to still join you for worship when I can and I'm sure I'll see many of you around the neighborhood. I do want to say how much I've appreciated the four months we've shared together. You have made me feel at home at Emmanuel! For example:

- You remembered my name and were forgiving when it took me several weeks to remember yours.
- You laughed and smiled when I made mistakes -- even when I forgot the prayer over the offering three weeks in a row.
- You went out of your way to be friendly to my husband and daughter when they came by.
- You sent me a personal email to follow up on a conversation we had.
- You lent me a book you thought I'd be interested in.
- You suggested that we meet for tea or lunch.
- You remembered something I told you about myself and asked about it later.

I mention these things not just because I appreciated them, but because just about every new person who walks through the doors at EBC would appreciate these things. The strength of connection you have with each other means that you offer real support and care and love.

But it can also be hard to join a community with so many strong, long-lasting relationships. It doesn't take much to help someone new feel at home--just do for everyone what you've done for me!

With gratitude,  
*Pastor Heather*



## A Message from Pastor Kathy

As I return from sabbatical, I am interested in re-connecting with the EBC community in several ways. The Exec Team and Ministry Team leaders will help me understand major church happenings and decisions in my absence.

Sunday Worship is our most significant communal gathering time, and I will likely be sharing my experiences within sermons, but sermons are monologues, and I'm interested in dialogue.



Photo: Hoffnunasschimmer (CC BY 2.0)

We can call this pastoral conversation or simply catching up. I can come to your home or meet you at a coffeeshop. Mondays will be my Sabbath and Fridays will be reserved for sermon prep, but that leaves Tuesday-Thursday mostly wide open. Please let me know if you would like to get together. -- *Pastor Kathy*

# Mark your Calendar...

## Welcome Sunday September 7



Come celebrate the beginning of another program year at Emmanuel on September 8<sup>th</sup>! We will learn about the wonderful activities and embrace



the opportunities for the coming year. We will share in a potluck of sweet or savory finger-foods. No forks required! Please bring your favorite appetizer, most scrumptious cookie, or another hand held treat. (JH)

### Join a Worship Design Team

As Pastor Kathy returns from sabbatical, she will continue the pattern of planning worship with teams. Several small teams are needed between now and the end of the year. If you have been involved before, please consider joining again. If you have not been involved, please know that your input is sought and welcome.



Our communal worship experiences are richer when contributions come from within the community. We need people who will provide ideas for music and color and language and drama. We need people who can implement those ideas "with tasks like assembling prayer booklets, painting cardboard, making PowerPoint slides" the list of possibilities is only limited by our energy and imagination and willing partners. The schedule for initial brainstorming meetings for each series is on a clipboard in fellowship hall. Please sign up and join us.

# From Service to Others...



# FOCUS

## ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are happy to announce that Rev. Renee Hollinshed has accepted the Boards' invitation to become our permanent FOCUS Executive Director. Following a fruitful interim period and an extensive search that produced several excellent candidates, the board affirmed Renee's work and our mutual experience to-date.



### *Focus Worship Service:*

**at 10:00 a.m.**

**Sept. 1 - at Emmanuel Baptist**

*Child care for children to age 5*

*Light reception following worship*

*Second Hour: Professor Sarah Rogerson*

***All are Welcome!***

# Join us!



The final summer FOCUS worship of 2019 will be held at Emmanuel Baptist Church at 10:00 a.m. on September 1. Plan now to attend and to stay for the second hour presentation by Professor Sarah Rogerson, professor at Albany Law School.

Professor Rogerson directs the Immigration Law Clinic, an experiential course through which students represent immigrant victims of crime including child abuse and neglect, domestic violence and sexual assault. Rogerson was involved the Legal Project's work with asylum-seekers held at Albany County Jail last summer and more recently in advocating for Albany resident Kinimo Ngoran who was at risk for deportation. . Immediately after graduation from Seton Hall Law School, Professor Rogerson worked for several years as an associate attorney at a law firm with practices in New York and New Jersey. In addition to her J.D. from Seton Hall Law School, she holds an LL.M. in international law at Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law and a Masters in Diplomacy and International Relations from Seton Hall University. The daughter of a Lutheran pastor, she is happy to connect with faith communities. Join us on September 1 for a lively and informative discussion of current immigration practices and policies.







# Wandering Arameans and Other Nomads

*“A wandering Aramean was my ancestor”  
“I’m two-boat Irish”  
“That’s how they spelled our family name  
at Ellis Island.”*

(image by Nizar Ali Badr, Syrian sculptor)

These are all statements about identity, revealing a short snippet about people’s history and self-understanding. As long as humans have been on earth, we have wandered. We find ancient stories about our wandering in the book of Genesis. Scholars believe that the stories in Genesis were passed down orally through generations, but that they were written down at the time that the Hebrew people were taken to Babylon as captives of war. In exile, the people reflected on their history and recognized their resilience. Stories from their past gave them courage for the future.

This September, we return to the stories of our ancestors in faith. Over 4 Sundays, we will remember Abraham and Sarah, Jacob, Joseph and his brothers, and what happened with the rise of a Pharaoh who did not know history. More people are forced to wander the world right now than at any time since World War II. In these stories from long ago, we will undoubtedly hear echoes of our own concerns about race and religion in immigration policy, about gender and power, about suffering and resourcefulness and survival, about our own desire to belong and to extend hospitality to the stranger.

## Special Collection for Fire Victims

We are receiving a special collection to help three Karen families. On August 23, a fast-moving fire destroyed 5 buildings on Myrtle Avenue, displacing 42 people. Three families who are members of Gethsemane Karen Baptist Church, the church that used to share space here at Emmanuel, lost their homes and all their possessions. In an expression of support and

Christian love, we are receiving monetary gifts to help those families recover and re-establish themselves in new homes.

You may put designated gifts for this purpose in the offering plate any Sunday through September 8. You may also mail checks to the church. Please put "Karen Families" in the memo line or write that on the outside of an envelope if you give cash.



## WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT 2019

September 19 - 21, 2019

Christ the King Spiritual Life Center

Keynote speaker the Rev. Stephanie Schneider, Pastor,  
Glens Falls Baptist Church and Village Baptist Church (Ft. Edward)

Speakers: Rev. George Stefani and Mike Soccocia

Cost: Thursday arrival, \$230 (dbl) \$300 (S)

Friday arrival: \$130 (dbl) \$165 (S)

Saturday only includes lunch: \$45

**Registration deadline: August 31**

Scholarship funds available

CABA Contact: Judy Brownell, 518-686-1677



### Thanks So Much for Your Support

Dear Emmanuel Family,

Thank you so much for your prayers and good wishes as Ian and I went on our “vagabond odyssey” in June and July. Between June 2 and August 4, we travelled 5,670 miles through 11 states: New York, New Jersey, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. We connected with many friends and family along the way and were in the midst of some of the most beautiful areas of this magnificent country.

We had the privilege of worshipping with friends in a synagogue in Norfolk, Virginia, and in a Quaker meeting in Yellow Springs, Ohio. Through the Internet, we found a Metropolitan Community Church to attend in Chattanooga, Tennessee. In each congregation, we were welcomed warmly, and we participated in celebrating God’s abundant love and in praying for peace, justice, and healing in our hurting world.

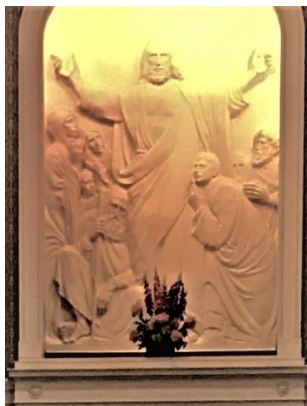
Most special to me was worshipping at North Shore Baptist Church in Chicago, Illinois. This was my first church home, from infancy until we left Chicago for western New York after my father died when I was 11. It was where I experienced the love of surrogate aunts, uncles, and grandparents, as my own extended family lived hundreds of miles away. It was the center of our family’s social life, for we attended morning and sometimes evening services each Sunday, youth fellowship programs, youth choir rehearsals, and smorgasbord suppers followed by program/prayer meetings on Wednesday nights. It was where I first learned about the terrible suffering of Jews in the Holocaust, about the harsh conditions that black children lived in on Chicago’s South Side, about the despair of people addicted to alcohol on Skid Row, and about the sickness and poverty in countries on the other side of the world. It was where I was baptized and where I attended my father’s funeral.

As I worshipped at North Shore that Sunday, I saw again the *bas-relief* over the baptistry that I saw every Sunday of my childhood. It is called “Come Unto Me” and is a sculpture of Christ with his arms outstretched. He is surrounded by eight individuals representing different ages and stations in life. There is an old man leaning against Christ’s leg, his eyes closed as he rests peacefully. There is a man in chains, who seeks to be free of his bondage. Women young and old, a child, and a young man press close in hope and adoration, and a man stands at the back, looking not at Christ but straight ahead, thinking who knows what? It is an image that has stayed with me throughout my life.



*This banner hangs at the entrance to North Shore. Its message is proclaimed in several languages.*

*continued...*



The *bas-relief* was commissioned for exhibition at the 1934 Chicago World's Fair. After the Fair, it was bought for North Shore by James L. Kraft, founder of Kraft Foods, Inc., and a member of the church. Mr. Kraft made many other contributions through his Baptist affiliations. Most notable, perhaps, is his role in acquiring the property in Green Lake, Wisconsin, for a Baptist conference center. It was purchased in 1943 from the bank that

held it in receivership.



The property had been developed as a “millionaires’ playground” and included a five-story luxury hotel, an 18-hole golf course, paved roads, several other buildings, and two miles of lakefront on the shore of Green Lake. Mr. Kraft, a board member of the bank as well as chairman of North Shore’s Deacons, worked with Dr. Luther Wesley Smith, Executive Secretary of the American Baptist Board of Education and Publication, and North Shore’s pastor, Dr. Weldon M. Wilson, who was also a close friend of Dr. Smith, to make the purchase. They paid \$300,000 for a property valued at \$11 million.

Since then, Green Lake Conference Center has been a place of learning, inspiration, worship, reflection, and recreation for folks around the world who come seeking “A Closer Walk with God.” Far from a playground for millionaires, it is a place where people like Ian and me can enjoy its facilities for a \$25 per night camping fee. And so we did for three nights in late July. As a college student, I had spent the summer on the student staff at Green Lake. We waited tables for three meals a day and could attend any of the conference pro-grams in our free time. On this visit, as I did at North Shore, I relived some of the sights, sounds, tastes, and smells of decades ago as I was being brought up to date on those places today.



While worshipping at North Shore, I thought about church meetings I have been to where the conversation involves the future of that church. Often someone will say, “If we don’t involve our children, this church will die.” I realized that in those terms, I am one of North Shore’s failures. They invested 11 years of love and effort in me, and I didn’t stay around to keep them alive. I can only hope that their investment has been realized in the churches I have attended since then. On the other hand, generations of children have come to North Shore from places the congregation may never have imagined at the time: Japan, China, Central America, and the Philippines. Likewise, we at Emmanuel have been given children to nurture from many different places. Some may grow up to stay at Emmanuel to become its leaders. Some, perhaps most, will take what we have given them to other communities, other churches, other states, other countries. I hope we will give them our best while they are here, as North Shore gave to me.

Yours in Christ,

Edith Leet

*A Centennial Garden at North Shore includes pavers inscribed with the names of members and friends as well as expressions of faith. Among them are one for Dr. Ralph and Virginia Elliott and one for “Family Matters, Building Community.”*

**Something New...**



# deodorant and shampoo

## Friday Night Lights

Beginning September 13

5:30 to 7:30 pm

on the second & fourth Fridays of the month

**Light supper** (provided)

**Light activities** (for adults and children)

**Light from the Word** (exploring together)

**Lights out!!** (7:30)

This is an opportunity for **multigenerational fellowship, learning and sharing**; a chance to invite friends & neighbors to experience Christian community. Bring a friend and try it out!

September 13    September 27  
October 11      October 25

## Notice of Meetings!

Executive Team Meeting: Sept. 9  
*in the church parlor, 6:15 pm*

Executive Team "Dreaming": Sept. 29  
*after worship*



**Emmanuel Women** are invited to meet for lunch at Diner Time restaurant on Thursday, September 5 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 Diner Time the same day, same time as the women. If you are coming, please let Bob Hunziker or Bob Green know so we can reserve a seat for you.



**Remember the  
Food Pantry... Sept.:**



**Church Office Closed ~ Sept. 2**  
**MOSAIC deadline ~ Sept. 18**

## Happy Birthday...

Ruth Pushee		1 <sup>st</sup>
Dorothy Wilburn		4 <sup>th</sup>
Judah Appe		4 <sup>th</sup>
Ariana Paul		5 <sup>th</sup>
Gillian Horan		14 <sup>th</sup>
Pickett Tait Simpson		16 <sup>th</sup>
Madison Stroebel		17 <sup>th</sup>
Nathan LaBarge		17 <sup>th</sup>
Veronica Smith		18 <sup>th</sup>
Marion Dickinson		20 <sup>th</sup>
Julianna Palm		21 <sup>st</sup>
Pat Hunziker		26 <sup>th</sup>
Frank Scheu		27 <sup>th</sup>
Mark Chaffin		29 <sup>th</sup>
Marion Dickinson	29 <sup>th</sup>	

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



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