

THE MOSAIC

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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

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I was on sabbatical at this time last year. It seems longer ago than just one year, doesn't it? One of my as-yet-unfulfilled hopes for sabbatical had been to spend a week on the island of Iona, Scotland. You've undoubtedly heard me mention that before.

In the Middle Ages, Iona was the site of a monastery founded by Columba and his companions. They had been from Ireland in 563 CE. It became a very important spiritual center for Great Britain and Ireland over the next centuries. This was a time in church history when Celtic Christianity was distinctly different from the Roman church. In 1938, George MacLeod, a minister of the Church of Scotland, rebuilt the Abbey, which had become a ruin in the centuries since the monastery was abandoned in 849. He founded the Iona Community. The Iona Community is an ecumenical Christian community, committed to seeking new ways of living the gospel in today's world. It is also a leading force in the revival of Celtic spirituality. I still hope to go there one day, when that kind of travel is possible again.

The Celts were the fourth century inhabitants of what is now Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Cornwall and Brittany. Celtic Spirituality developed as Christianity reached those areas and became intertwined with pre-Christian agrarian rituals and understandings. It is a spirituality with an emphasis on the cycles of daily and seasonal life. We are living in a time that seems profoundly daily. Many of us have more time than ever before to notice the ordinary and celebrate the blessings inherent in each day. For this reason, I chose for August, a worship theme of "Bless to Me". I hope this emphasis will help to enhance our awareness and gratitude for daily occurrences of grace and blessing. I hope that we will gain an appreciation for Celtic spirituality with its recognition of the holy in the ordinary.

More people chose to be part of this worship design team than usual. I'm taking that as an indication of wider EBC interest in Celtic Spirituality. Keep reading for more details on our plans.

Peace,
Kathy

BLESS TO ME

*I will bless the Lord at all times;
God's praise will always be in my mouth.*

Psalm 34:1

According to the Northumbria Community, Celtic Spirituality is a celebration of ordinariness and an earthed humanity. They believe that nothing is secular because everything is sacred. Nothing is outside of God's love and grace. God may be found in and through things rather than direct visions. The Celt says we must take time to learn to play 'The 5 stringed Harp', which means the 5 senses. What we hear, see, smell, taste, touch all speaks of God.

Sunday Worship

August 9 Daily Blessings

Psalm 113:1-3

Luke 12:23-31

August 23 Blessing in Adversity

Psalm 31:1-5

Romans 5:1-5

August 16 Seasonal Blessings

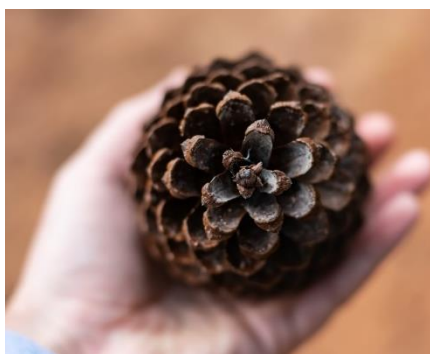
Psalm 90:12-17

Ecclesiastes. 3:1-18

August 30 Blessing the World

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

Matthew 5:1-12



In coming weeks, the Emmanuel community will be investigating this approach to an authentic and grounded spirituality. To deepen the connection between the senses and the spiritual, you are invited to find an object in the natural world that speaks to your senses. It might be a stone or a leaf, a flower you might press between the pages of your bible, a robin's eggshell. Whatever speaks to you, please bring that object to worship in August as a focus and a connection to the glorious, natural world.



Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work,
or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels
charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord
Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying,
soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the
joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

Evening Prayer

The Celtic monks and others maintained a discipline known as praying the hours or the daily office. The work day was punctuated with prayers at set times.

These came to be known as

Prime (first hour, 6 a.m.),

Terce (third hour, 9 a.m.),

Sext (sixth hour, 12 noon),

None (ninth hour, 3 p.m.)

Vespers (6 p.m.) and

Compline (7 p.m.) the last prayer of the day, from the Latin word for completion.

For the month of August, we will celebrate Evening Prayer (a loose combination of Vespers and Compline at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. Pause with us to draw near to God at days' end. Expect these brief services (about 20 minutes) to include a reading from the Psalms or other scripture, silence and voiced prayers. Resources from the Northumbria Community and Iona and others will give this sacred time a Celtic flavor. Watch for a Zoom link coming to your e-mail.



Welcoming the stranger has been valued and practiced by people of faith from ancient times. Our latest growing edge involves extending hospitality in Zoom space. Beginning in August, our Sunday morning worship will begin with a more intentional welcoming and contemplative time.

At approximately 9:55 a.m., all microphones will be muted to allow for a quiet space and some words of welcome on the screen. We are positioning ourselves to better welcome newcomers. If walking into a church building where you don't know anyone is difficult, imagine showing up on a screen as a stranger. To make things easier, we will employ this quieter time before worship begins. You are invited to logon between 9:30 and 9:50 if you wish to greet people. You may also use the chat function to do so after microphones are muted.

The next step will be to share our worship on another platform which doesn't present the obstacle of requiring a password, probably Facebook Live or YouTube.

Congregational Meeting to be Held August 9th

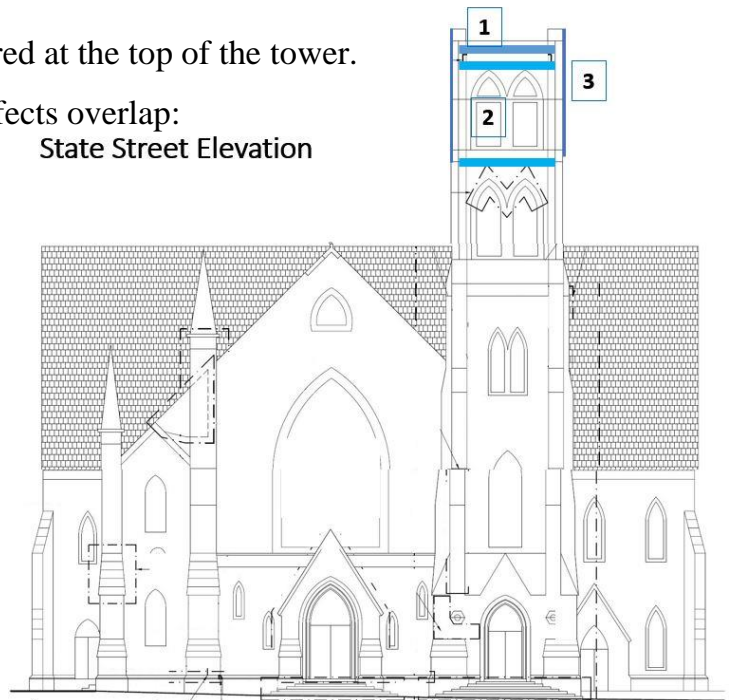
Emmanuel is a complex church. We are a lifeline to our neighbors, we individually reveal God's presence today, we act together with other churches to influence a Christian approach to problems within our society. We also have stewardship responsibilities for our historic building, specifically with the technical preservation of our amazing, Victorian Gothic revival building in downtown Albany.

Humor from our Property & Financial Management commission (formerly Corporate Management) often describes the responsibilities of supporting the building as another episode in the continuing saga of "This Old Church." Hopefully you know that Emmanuel has been awarded accolades by the Historic Albany Foundation for our preservation of our 148-year-old historic building.

Dangerous new deterioration has been discovered at the top of the tower.

As noted in the graphic here, three different defects overlap:

- 1] Roofing is no longer waterproof. The old and newer layers have failed, resulting in water intruding into the sanctuary.
- 2] Water has not only rotted the wood members supporting the roof, but resulted in a partial collapse of two platforms.
- 3] Stone has shifted. The mortar that stabilizes the Syracuse limestone has deteriorated. The tower was not targeted in the 2014 masonry stabilization of the sanctuary.



Consultation with our architect Jim Hundt has been the beginning of our investigations, with more expertise from engineers and contractors.

A congregational meeting will occur Sunday, August 9th following our morning service. All information available at that time will be presented and discussed. (T. Lahut)



Walking the Dog

~ Beth A Richardson,
in *Christ Beside Me, Christ Within Me*

Bless to me this walking of the dog,
Early in the morning, late at night,
We walk to the park and back.

Bless to me the silence we share.
Me watching, him sniffing,
Noticing the changes of each day, each season.

Bless to me my faithful companion,
In him I see the world
Through different eyes and ears and nose.

Bless to me this quiet time.
Our ritual, a time of prayer,
Of peace, of love.

Bless to me this walking of the dog.

From Caring & Fellowship...

Specially Spaced Picnics in August

Sunday, Aug 9, 1-3pm

Andrea Carver (rain date, 8/16)

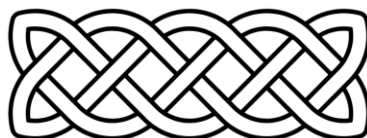
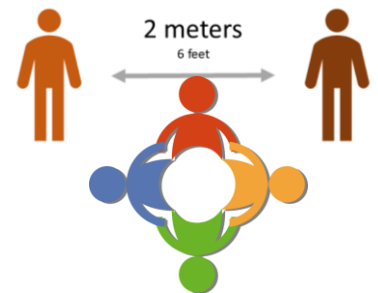
Sunday, Aug 23, 12-2pm

Green's (rain date, 8/30)



Each location will host a max. of 10 people, spaced 6' apart. You **must pre-register** with the host. If you have any questions, you may contact Ellen Corcoran. Here are the specifics:

- Events are all "BYOF"—bring your own food, including beverages.
- Bring your chair & umbrella if you want shade -- even yards w/ umbrella tables will each only seat 2
- Face mask & hand wipes provided, but you may bring your own.
- Call the host to register! **You MUST pre-schedule!!**
- GOOD WEATHER only! Please note, rain dates.



From the Current Expense Treasurer...

As of June 30, 2020 income had totaled \$114,776 , of which \$71,253 was pledge income. We also received \$18,200 from a PPP loan, of which all was spent to comply with the loan forgiveness requirements.

Total operating expenses were \$149,900, leaving a deficit of expenses compared to income of -\$35,124. No withdrawals from the Schwab investment account were taken during these first six months. If the usual withdrawal of \$10,500 had been taken, the deficit for Current Expense would have been -\$24,624 .

Pledge income is about the same to this point as it was last year. As a reminder, you can support the church by giving online through the church's website, as many people have done, or send checks to the church. The finance team at Emmanuel is very grateful for your ongoing generous support. (KM)

A Blessing of the Coffee

~ Beth A Richardson,
In Christ Beside Me, Christ Within Me

Bless this cup,
Smooth and warm,
Held in cold hands,
In cold hands.

Bless the workers
And their families,
Their children and their homes,
And their homes.

Bless this drink,
Dark and strong,
Sipped slowly in the quiet,
In the quiet.

Bless this day
And all who wake,
Give them comfort, strength, and plenty,
Strength and plenty.

Bless the beans
And those who picked them,
All who washed and roasted,
Washed and roasted.

Bless this coffee,
Warm and sweet,
Nourishing, comforting taste of love,
Taste of love.



FOCUS Worship

August 2 at 10:00 a.m.

Social-Distance Drive-in Service
at First Church in Albany

Bring your own communion elements & lawn chair if you wish

Another FOCUS Service is scheduled for September 7.
Westminster Presbyterian Church will host.

for details: <https://www/wpcalbany.org/upcoming-events>

**Remember the
Food Pantry...**

feminine hygiene products



Reminder... EBC Announce email list is changed!

The good news is that your experience of using EBC Announce will be almost identical to the old. If you haven't done so, take just a few simple steps to subscribe to the new list:

1. Visit this site: <https://groups.io/g/ebc-announce/join>
2. Enter your email address
3. Click the green Confirm Email Address button:



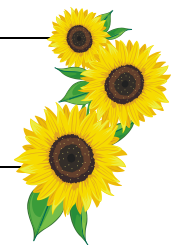
When you click this button we will send you an email to confirm your email address.

4. Shortly, you will receive an email to confirm your email address and activate your membership. Look for a message from **Groups.io** with the subject: "[**ebc-announce**] Confirm your...email address".
5. All you need to do is to reply to that email, and your subscription will be complete.
OPTIONAL: You can follow the instructions in the email to create an account. This is optional, but it will allow you to use some of the other functionality that comes with the group.

Going forward, you'll just need to make sure that when you want to send to EBC Announce, you use the new email address: ebc-announce@groups.io

If you have any issues or questions, please contact Curtis Klope or Ruth Pushee.

***Deadline for the September MOSAIC is
August 18.***



Happy Birthday...

Elisabeth Scheu
 Bill Silverman
 Kimberly Norwood
 Sam Hill
 Brianna Garner
 Michael Green
 Beverly Norwood
 Becky Klope
 Parmilla Allen
 Shamaal Ford
 Liselle LaFrance
 Karen Kendall

1st
 2nd
 5th
 8th
 7th
 11th
 22nd
 22nd
 23rd
 26th
 28th
 30th



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