

THE MOSAIC

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Pastoral Ponderings



Just a few months ago, Emmanuel was invited to join an anti-racism project called “*Churches that THRIVE for Racial Justice.*” We are one of 27 congregations spanning 19 US states and 2 Canadian provinces engaged in this partnership with the Alliance of Baptists and the Lily Endowment and three sociologists who study race and religion.

The Rev. Paula Dempsey, administrator of the project for the Alliance, said, “Followers of Jesus are called to constantly examine the way things are in our churches, communities, nation and world, as compared to God’s dream and vision for the way the world should be. Examining the way things are, and working to nurture the way things should be—through the lens of race—is at the heart of the THRIVE project.”

This is fantastic opportunity for us, to learn and grow together, to work towards real change. Last week, I had a wonderful conversation with one of the sociologists connected to the project,. He said that Emmanuel is one of the most racially/ethnically diverse congregations involved in THRIVE. That rare gift, of established, long-term relationships which cross racial lines, is one of Emmanuel’s strengths.

This is a 5-year project. Our over-arching goal for the first year is education – adopting a common language that will help us speak meaningfully with each other, educating ourselves about some of the origins of racism in our country, and beginning to explore its current manifestations. A diverse team of Emmanuelites are organizing a variety of opportunities for us to learn together. THRIVE Team members are Jean Burton, Edith Leet, Maria Townes-Covington, Jim Wilkerson, Michelle Williams, and myself.

Over the next year, we plan to offer:

- a) small discussion groups about once every three months,
- b) a book discussion about once every three months, and
- c) a movie discussion once a month, on the third Friday of the month.

Anti-racism work is at the heart of the gospel. It is a call from God to which we have responded. Our hope is for transformation of ourselves, our church, our city, our nation. Emmanuel will be most thoroughly transformed to the degree that all of us engage. We will learn from the content of

continued...

the materials AND we will learn from each other. This is one ministry which does not need to be delayed because of the coronavirus. We will hold in-person events when the risk of Covid transmission is reduced, but we are beginning now with conversations over Zoom.



Please consider your own level of engagement. Can you commit to participating in at least one event this fall and at least one this winter? I hope you will participate in more, but that minimal commitment from everyone will enrich our experience. And joining sooner rather than later gives you the best opportunity to help shape the way this project evolves at Emmanuel. I am grateful to be in this with you.

Peace,

Kathy



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

On October 3, we are celebrating World Communion Sunday outdoors, with Covid protocols in place, on October 3. We will gather in the yard at Tom and Barb Lahut's home where there is ample room to spread out at least 6 feet from the next nearest household. (Contact Pastor Kathy or Tom and Barb for directions.) Please wear a mask and bring lawn chairs or a blanket to sit on. Bring a new fabric strip for this Sunday as well as any that already have prayers written on them. Pre-packaged

communion elements will be provided or you may bring your own. We will receive your tithes and offerings, including gifts to the World Mission Offering. If you are not able to join in-person, there will be an on-line opportunity. Watch for details about how to access that in advance of that Sunday morning.

For the month of October, we will worship exclusively over Zoom. The one exception to this is on October 3, when we will worship in-person outdoors at the home of the Tom and Barb Lahut and on Zoom. Because of the level of Covid-19 infection in our community, particularly the Delta variant, the Executive Team has decided that we will not be present in the Emmanuel sanctuary this month. A decision about and if when to resume hybrid worship will be made on a month-by-month basis for the time being.

Please join us for worship on Zoom. Please invite friends. The Zoom link is readily available and maybe shared from our website. Please consider having your camera on during worship. It is one more way that we can encourage each other. We are all in this together.





UNRAVELED

We continue the worship series we began last month – seeking God when our plans fall apart. Each week, please bring a fabric strip to your worship space. If you worship in person, try to bring it to church with you.

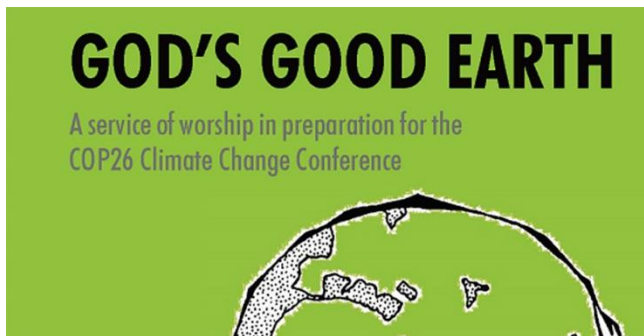
Oct. 3 Exodus 7:8-23 || Pharaoh Hardens His Heart
When Humans Unravel God's Plan for Justice

Oct. 10 LUKE 19:1-10 || Zacchaeus the Wealthy Tax Collector
ACTS 9: 1-20 || The Conversion of Saul to Paul
Unraveling of Vocation
Pulpit Guest: The Rev. Peter Carman



Oct. 17 JEREMIAH 29:1-7 || Encouraging the Israelites
in Exile to Plant Gardens & Build Houses
When Dreams Unravel

Oct. 24 JOHN 4:1-29 || The Samaritan Woman at the Well
Unraveled Shame



Sunday Morning -- October 31
Gratitude, lament and repentance
coinciding with the
UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow,
October 31-November 12
Liturgy from the Wild Goose Resource Group
The Iona Community

A Special Invitation

You are most cordially invited to a Service of Installation of Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff as Minister of the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Albany, NY on Sunday, October 17th, 2:00 pm., either in-person or Online. Rev. Rick Spalding (former FOCUS clergy) will be preaching, and there will be a variety of musical guests, both in person and virtual.



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89107257043?pwd=cW5KcHAzRjY4RjJ6OWtmRWVpR1h6QT09>

Meeting ID: 891 0725 7043

Passcode: 12210

Anti-Racism Learning Events as we *Thrive* for Racial Justice



“Harriet”

Third Friday Movie Conversation

October 15 @ 7 pm

Zoom

Watch the movie on your own schedule. Join us for conversation on the third Friday of the month. October’s selection tells the story of Harriet Tubman’s escape from slavery through the dangerous missions she led to liberate hundreds of slaves through the Underground Railroad.

It is currently available to rent for \$4 on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LDEFa7Nz0eI>

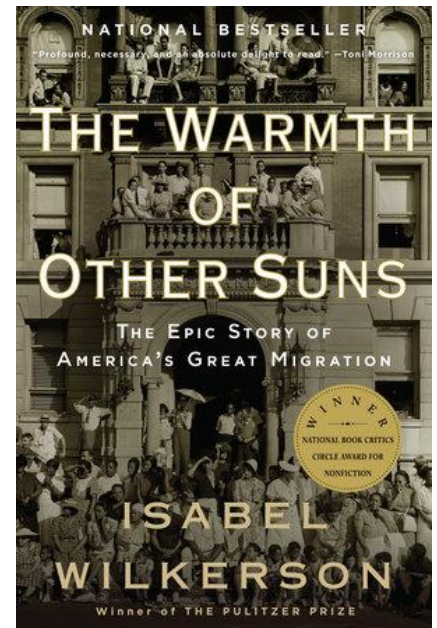
The Warmth of Other Suns

November 1 and November 9

7:00 p.m. on Zoom

In *The Warmth of Other Suns*, Isabel Wilkerson draws on ten years of research to tell the remarkable story of America’s Great Migration. Over six million blacks migrated North from 1915-1970, but Wilkerson focuses on three representative people—Ida Mae Gladney, George Swanson Starling, and Robert Pershing Foster—who left the South in 1937, 1944, and 1953, respectively. Unlike most migrations, the blacks who left the South were seeking full citizenship *within* their own country, rather than traveling to an entirely new land. This book documents the racial terror that reigned in the Jim Crow South which drove them to make the perilous journey, risking their lives and livelihoods in the process.

Books are available through several local libraries. Used copies may be purchased on-line. We have funds available to help. Please contact Pastor Kathy if you need assistance. We will discuss about half the book in each session. Be part of one or both conversations as your schedule allows.



This month, Elijah Zehyoue assumes the role of co-director of the Alliance of Baptists, following the retirement of Paula Clayton Dempsey, director of partnership relations. In the Alliance’s new structure, Zehyoue and Carole Collins, director of operations and finance, will provide joint leadership. A graduate of Morehouse College and the University of Chicago, he is currently writing a Ph.D. dissertation in African history at Howard University. His focus is on the transatlantic slave trade and the origins of the Liberian civil war. He is an immigrant to the United States from Liberia, traveling with his family to escape that civil war.

Zehyoue has served as associate pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., since 2014.



Alliance
of Baptists

Our participation in the Thrive project is made possible by the Alliance of Baptists. **At the October 24 congregational meeting, we will consider becoming a full congregational partner with the Alliance.** You are encouraged to learn about the Alliance in advance of that meeting. To do

that you might visit the website <https://allianceofbaptists.org/>

Covenant and Mission Adopted April 10, 2021

We are a people of faith formed by a long tradition of dissent and historic Baptist freedoms. Celebrating this heritage, we seek to cultivate beloved community, claiming our identity within the body of Christ in the world and our solidarity with all creation.

We welcome and affirm all persons with full respect to gender, sexual, racial, and ethnic identities. We hold space for all persons with varying abilities, social standing, or economic status.

We lament that over time many of us have contributed to systems of racial, social, economic, and environmental injustice, privileging some while excluding others. As Baptists we confess that we have cherished independence from one another more than responsibility to one another and have allowed systemic injustices to flourish under the banner of individual freedom. We repent and seek transformation.

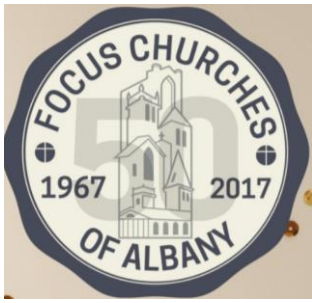
Embraced in baptismal waters, we freely gather to follow the radical way of Jesus. As disciples we pledge to wrestle with scripture in community, practice shared leadership, preserve local church freedom, and promote religious liberty.

*Guided by the Spirit, we commit ourselves to:
Make the worship of God central in our life together;
Hold the earth sacred, practice creation justice, and
Pursue God's peace and love;
Nurture spiritual formation and support theological education,
Develop ministry, ecumenical, and interfaith partnerships, and
Cultivate relationships of mutual respect and accountability;
Act to dismantle systems of white supremacy, patriarchy, and abusive power,
Raise prophetic voices for liberation and justice, and
Work to eradicate poverty in all forms;
Establish spaces of refuge and renewal with those who are wounded,
Listen to and follow voices that have been silenced, and
Break down barriers that divide us from each other and creation.*

We seek to live in joy, humility, and gratitude, welcoming the realm of God.

Alliance of Baptists
Virtual Fall
Gathering
Saturday, October 23
12:00-1:30 p.m.

Emmanuel has been specially invited to attend the fall gathering on October 23 to get a first-hand glimpse of the Alliance. Please consider attending. More information, including a Zoom link, coming soon.



CACC Fall Awards Celebration

The Capital Area Council of Churches Fall Awards Celebration on October 13 will honor FOCUS Churches with the Pearl & James Campbell Peace and Justice Award. The dinner will be at the Italian American Community Center, 257 Washington Ave Ext. Dinner begins with a social hour at 5 p.m. The cost of \$75 includes a choice of meals. Registration for the dinner can be completed online <https://www.capareacc.org/2021/09/fall-award-celebration/>

or by contacting the CACC office at (518) 462-5450, or capareacc@gmail.com.



*Remember the
Food Pantry...*

Deodorant



Infrastructure on a Human Scale: State Street Forum
Thursday, October 21, 12 noon-1:00 pm on ZOOM
Sponsored by the New York State Council of Churches,
FOCUS Churches of Albany and Westminster Presbyterian Church

How could the two infrastructure bills before Congress right now impact our local neighborhoods and economy?

The proposed level of investment is massive. One bi-partisan bill calls for 1 trillion dollars of "hard" infrastructure investment for roads, bridges, public transportation, etc. A second bill calls for over 3 trillion dollars of investment in "human infrastructure: childcare, elder care, affordable housing, and investment in clean energy and health care.

Is this what our country needs to get our economy growing again? How might local churches and people of faith weigh in on decisions about where and how this money is spent?

Our next State Street Forum will feature a speaker with an eye on federal and state legislation and a pastor involved who has had a chance to direct some of this funding as it comes into his community. We will have plenty of time for questions and comments from all in attendance.

The Zoom link will be available at www.wpcalbany.org/upcoming-events

Happy Birthday...

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|-----------------|--|------------------|
| Chris Moaton | | 1 st |
| Marilyn Malone | | 6 th |
| Warren Burton | | 6 th |
| Bien Baez | | 11 th |
| Julie Shaw | | 13 th |
| Taylor Stroebel | | 16 th |
| Madeline Green | | 23 rd |

*Deadline for the November MOSAIC:
October 18*



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