

THE MOSAIC

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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

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Pastoral Ponderings

I opted to have a roommate for the conflict mediation training in Kansas City in August. That's pretty unusual for me. Introvert that I am, I would usually prefer some time and space on my own, especially given that the choice involved committing to sharing a hotel room with a stranger for 10 days and nights. But I also try to be a good steward of my continuing education money and having a private room was more expensive.



It turned out to be really good decision. My roommate Nancy was fantastic. She had a car and volunteered to drive three of us to campus each day. The third person in the car was an activist from Myanmar who is currently studying political science in the US. Our large-group sessions got intense some times and it was wonderful to have someone to debrief with at the end of the day, even after the conversations in the car. Nancy lives in a suburb of Chicago very near where I grew up. In fact, my high school was a major rival of the high school in her suburb. I meet a lot of people from the Chicago area. No one is ever familiar with my south-side suburb of Dolton, but Nancy was. So that was fun.

I talked to Nancy a LOT! I also tried to do my share of listening, but I was frankly amazed at how much I talked. Nancy's gracious listening probably elicited some of that, but my chattiness also probably had a lot to do with the limited number of people I have been talking to for the last two years – Jim already knows all my stories! I didn't realize how much I was missing ordinary, face-to-face conversation with regular human beings.

That experience makes me wonder what other new patterns I've settled into without realizing it. It makes me consider activities that I should be intentional about and where I should put effort into resuming practices that I abandoned when the pandemic set in. It makes me wonder those same things about our communal church life.

We are engaging those questions this fall in at least two significant ways:

First, we are planning for more in-person events, including Sunday School for children and youth. We do so, mindful of the strengths and limitations of Zoom technology, with the desire to provide quality experiences for everyone. You may have gotten out of the church habit. It may take more intention and effort to participate on Sunday morning and/or in events other than Sunday morning. I encourage you to make that effort at whatever level you can. If you attend worship on Zoom, make the effort to turn on your camera. We love to see and hear each other. If you could attend in person, but inertia is keeping you away, talk yourself into giving it a try. You might discover that you didn't know how much you were missing it. We will continue to provide hybrid worship, so you can always go back to Zoom.

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Second, with funds from the ReKindle grant, we have engaged a consultant, Joy Skjegstad. Joy will facilitate a process to help us identify our current mission priorities and to name those with whom God is calling us to be in ministry and to make decisions about how we will do that. These are questions that we were asking before the pandemic, but the pandemic has changed us and revealed new realities. The congregational process will begin in October when Joy comes to Albany. Watch for more details coming soon. Everyone’s participation will be important for a successful outcome to that consultation.

Thank you for all the ways you keep showing up – on Zoom, in the room, in phone calls and text messages and sometimes, even in person! Who knew that talking to an ordinary person face-to-face could be such a gift!

Peace,
Kathy



FOCUS Worship
both in person and online
All are Welcome!

You are invited to attend the final FOCUS summer worship service of the season on Sunday, September 4, 10 a.m. We will gather in person at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 262 State Street (limited parking at 85 Chestnut Street) and on Zoom. Communion will be served in the pews. If you are joining on-line, remember to have your communion elements handy.



You'll find the Zoom link and the link to the Order of Service on the website, <https://wpcalbany.org/event/focus-churches-summer-worship-sept04/>



Emmanuel is the grateful recipient of a new weaving, *Etz Chaim* (Tree of Life), created and woven of linen and organic cotton by Judy Henningson.

The Tree of Life is an archetype in a great number of world religions, past and present. It may represent creation, fertility, immortality, the nature of God and the connections among all life on Earth and Heaven itself.

Direct references to *Etz Chaim* appear in Genesis, Proverbs and the book of Revelation. In Jewish tradition, the phrase is used as a synonym for the Torah and rabbinical literature. The meaning has expanded to include synagogues, yeshivas and the faithful congregations that follow scripture. In Christianity, it is also regarded as a symbol of the cross and of Christ.



Special September Worship Events

September 11 – Peace Sunday

Gather to seek peace and pursue it, in a variety of ways. Our texts will be Micah 4:1-5 and Ephesians 2:11-22. Worship will include a number of different elements, including a blessing of the backpacks as we recognize the start of the school year. Students, teachers, school staff members, and anyone who carries a backpack to school or work is invited to bring it to church or to your Zoom worship space that morning.

September 25 – Baptism of Judah Appe

Celebrating Judah's decision to follow Jesus with his life as enacted in the waters of baptism. The sermon will be on a text important to Judah, Matthew 16:13-20. You don't want to miss this one!



SAVE THE DATE – NOVEMBER 6

The Rev. Zehyoue will be our guest preacher in the morning. He will offer a presentation on anti-racism work that evening.

Reverend Elijah R. Zehyoue serves as the Co-Director of the Alliance of Baptists. In this role, he is leading them through an effort to become an anti-racist organization. As a historian, theologian, pastor, preacher, and teacher, Elijah is committed to using his many gifts to help people of all walks of life do the head, heart, and soul work required for our collective liberation. He is a graduate of Morehouse College (B.A.) and the University of Chicago (M.Div.), and he is currently a Ph.D. candidate in African History at Howard University where he is writing a dissertation on the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade and the Origins of the Conflict in Liberia. Additionally, Elijah teaches

African and African American Studies at Georgetown University. Prior to coming to the Alliance, Elijah served on the pastoral staff at Calvary Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. Elijah is originally from Liberia, West Africa and grew up Baton Rouge, La.

Pot Luck Scheduled

After worship on Sunday, September 11, we will enjoy a potluck lunch at EBC. Bring your favorite “fall” dish. There is an abundance of fresh produce at our local farm stands this time of year. We hope you will use as many ingredients from these local sources as possible. If you

have questions, you may contact Ellen Corcoran.

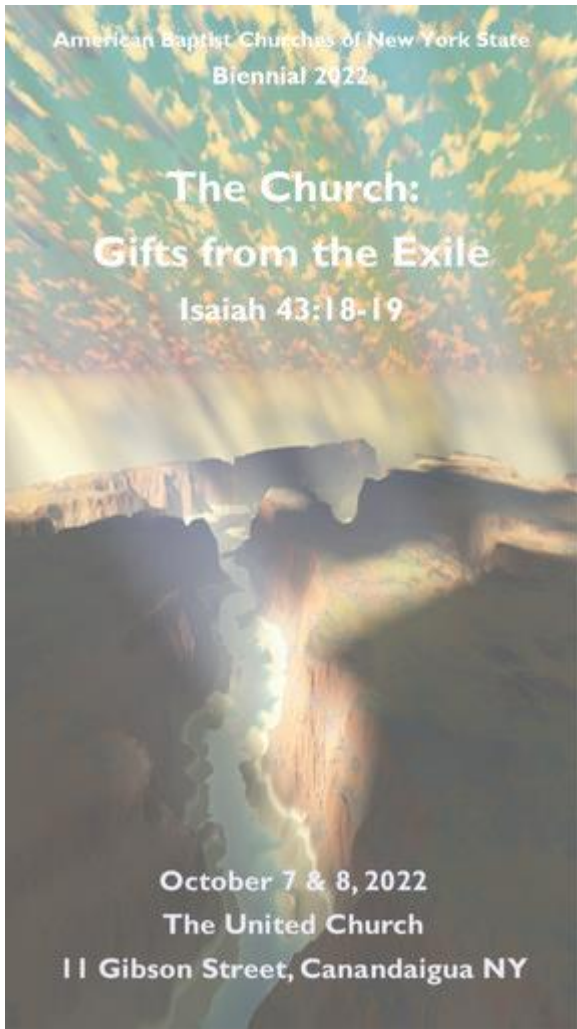




Easy way to Lower Carbon Emissions

One purchasing decision that will help lower carbon emissions is to choose electric over gas-powered tools such as lawnmowers, snowblowers, leaf blowers, chainsaws, trimmers, and power tools. For example, the EPA estimates that hour-for-hour, gasoline powered lawn mowers produce 11 times as much pollution as a new car. These electric tools do not sacrifice power, are low-maintenance, quieter, easier to start and operate, and you can ditch that gasoline tank in your garage. So, when it comes time to replace that old power tool, go electric.

www.capitalcreationcare.org



ABCNYS Biennial October 7 & 8 Canandaigua, NY

*"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."--
Isaiah 43:18-19*

Pastor Kathy and Marilyn and Tony Malone plan to attend this conference. Brochures are available at church or you can go to the website for details.

IMPORTANT: If registrations are sent together, we **save \$5 each. Deadline is September 15.** You may contact Marilyn for more information or to register as a group. Hotels are filling up quickly, so make reservations as soon as possible! [ABCNYS Biennial - AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF NEW YORK STATE \(abc-nys.org\)](http://ABCNYS Biennial - AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF NEW YORK STATE (abc-nys.org))

GUEST SPEAKERS:



Dr. C. Jeff Woods General Secretary ABCUSA	Rev. David Harris Pastor FBC Syracuse	Anita & Rick Gutierrez Global Servants South Africa	Karen Podsiadly Past President ABCUSA
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Making our building available to various groups in our community is part of Emmanuel's mission and is part of our offering to the community. Last week was a fine example of that cooperative spirit. The exercise with HBO during the filming of "The Gilded Age" may have stretched our traditional concepts of sharing church, but it was an interesting and worthwhile experience.

If you ventured into the neighborhood, you would have been transported back to the 1800's, horse-drawn carriages, gas lamps, and all. The photos here give you a glimpse of the transformation as well as a sense of behind-the-scenes activity.

Many thanks to our dedicated church members who sacrificed time and made last-minute accommodations to help cover HBO's quirky requirements and assure the security of our church. Please offer blessings for Bob Green, Kathy Moore, Jean Burton, Judy Henningson, Brian Hughes, and Pastor Kathy, and all who support them. Dorothy Wilburn, Joe Burns and Patrick Burns also worked hard to make this project happen, especially with keeping our tenants apprised of key changes.



Dove & State streets with 1880's activities





Portable air conditioning,
to keep the extras comfortable
in-between takes



Photos by:
Kathy Donley
Tom Lahut
Dorothy Wilburn

In Emmanuel's Sanctuary, waves of extras would arrive & depart throughout an evening of filming

Happy Birthday...

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



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

**Deadline for September MOSAIC:
August 18**

**Remember the
Food Pantry...
shampoo**

**WELCOME
BACK to Sunday School!**

Youth are invited to the first Youth Sunday School meeting on Sunday, September 11, at 9 am. Jim will bring doughnuts! Youth, just show up. If you have any questions, you may text him at 518-506-7646. Mark your calendar and be there!

Primary & Junior classes will meet every other Sunday morning, 9:15-10:00 beginning on September 11.



Campfire Scheduled

The Malone's campfire evenings have been so popular that another is planned for **September 9, 6:30 to 8 p.m.** Watch for details and be sure to mark your calendar so you don't miss the fun. If you plan to attend, please let Marilyn know: 518-312-8761

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