



THE ENVOY

Issue 325

April 2015

Emmanuel Friedens Church
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Pastor

Rev. Peter J.B. Carman

Music Director

Don Kerr

Office Hours

9 am-3 pm M-F



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April Calendar

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Emmanuel Friedens Friends,

Not long ago, one of you invited me over to look at some documents from almost twenty years ago, reflections on what this congregation meant to its members. It was fascinating reading through your reflections, and clear that being in community together, bound by faith, hope and love, was extremely important to you.

As we enter Holy Week together, and prepare to celebrate Easter, I have been continuing to meditate on what it means to be on this journey together. Shaped as we are by the story of Christ's life, death and resurrection, it is perhaps a natural thing for a new pastor entering into relationship with the church to ask of oneself "Just what does it mean to be shaped as a community by that story?" And for a congregation which is in the fullest sense a blended family it is surely right and good that we be freshly intentional about how we live together in Christ's community.

Your Journey Task Force has spent several months talking, asking questions, listening to you and trying to picture the future to which God is calling us together. Recently the group presented your Church Council with a proposed Vision for our Journey, a statement warmly received and endorsed by your elected church leaders.

The statement is too long to be just another catchy motto tucked under the letterhead. And it is too short to be a charter or strategic plan! In other words, it is just right for this moment in our life together. Specific enough to actually point out a direction, and say something significant about who we are, it is general enough to leave lots of room for the grace of God and real conversation as together we work out the details of what God is calling us to be together!

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Here are the words your Church Council endorsed:

A Vision for our Journey

Captivated by Jesus' life and teaching,

Committed to

Growing hearts and minds;

Learning openness, courage, and love;

Serving with our neighbors;

Pursuing God's justice and peace;

Inviting others to share the journey!

In the weeks ahead you can expect to hear more about specific ideas and hopes for the next few years as our church moves into God's future. In the meantime, let me suggest that this new Vision, if nothing else, creates good questions of each of us, personally.

Here are a few to ponder together:

As we celebrate the resurrection of Christ, how have Christ's life and teachings changed and raised us personally? As an intentional community?

How do we already grow hearts and minds here? And how are we called to deepen and widen these efforts?

What does the hands-on pursuit of justice and peace look like in this time and place?

Whom do we offer an invitation to be part of the movement, and how can we grow in the inviting?

I very much look forward to having these conversations together, and filling out the picture of the beloved community this church has been, remains, and is called to be-- in ways full of love and grace.

In the light of resurrection hope, Peter

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday: March 29

Maundy Thursday: April 2 - 7 pm at Emmanuel Friedens Church. A service shared with First

United Methodist Church, our neighbors. A remembrance of Jesus' Last Supper with his friends. The service will include an offering of communion and foot washing.

Good Friday: Ecumenical Cross Walk; the Stations of the Cross Walk, with hymns and scripture that recall the passion of Jesus Christ, begins at 12 pm at Christ Episcopal Church (State Street) and ends at the City Mission of Schenectady. Stops at churches and community buildings along the way. Shuttle service will be available from the Mission back to Christ Episcopal.

Easter Sunday-Happy Easter: April 5, Worship service @ 10 am. Easter reception and Easter egg hunt for the children following worship.



CHURCH NEWS

A Message from Don Kerr...

As some of you already know, I have accepted an appointment as Organist and Choirmaster at St. Mark's Church in Waterville, Maine. I will begin my duties there early in May, so the last Sunday in April will be my last at Emmanuel-Friedens.

I want to thank the choir for their contribution to the music program over the years, and to thank Jody Radez for enriching the worship with his music in a very special way. And my thanks to those among you in the congregation who have encouraged and supported me with positive comments and kind words over the years.

I am also grateful indeed for the time I have spent working with Larry, David, Jo, and Peter. And special thanks to Maria for her cheerfulness, helpfulness, total cooperation, and her attention to detail which has saved me from embarrassing slip-ups more than once!

Listen to all of you singing hymns on Sunday morning has always been the most rewarding part of my work at Emmanuel-Friedens. Keep at it.

--Don Kerr

Dear Friends,

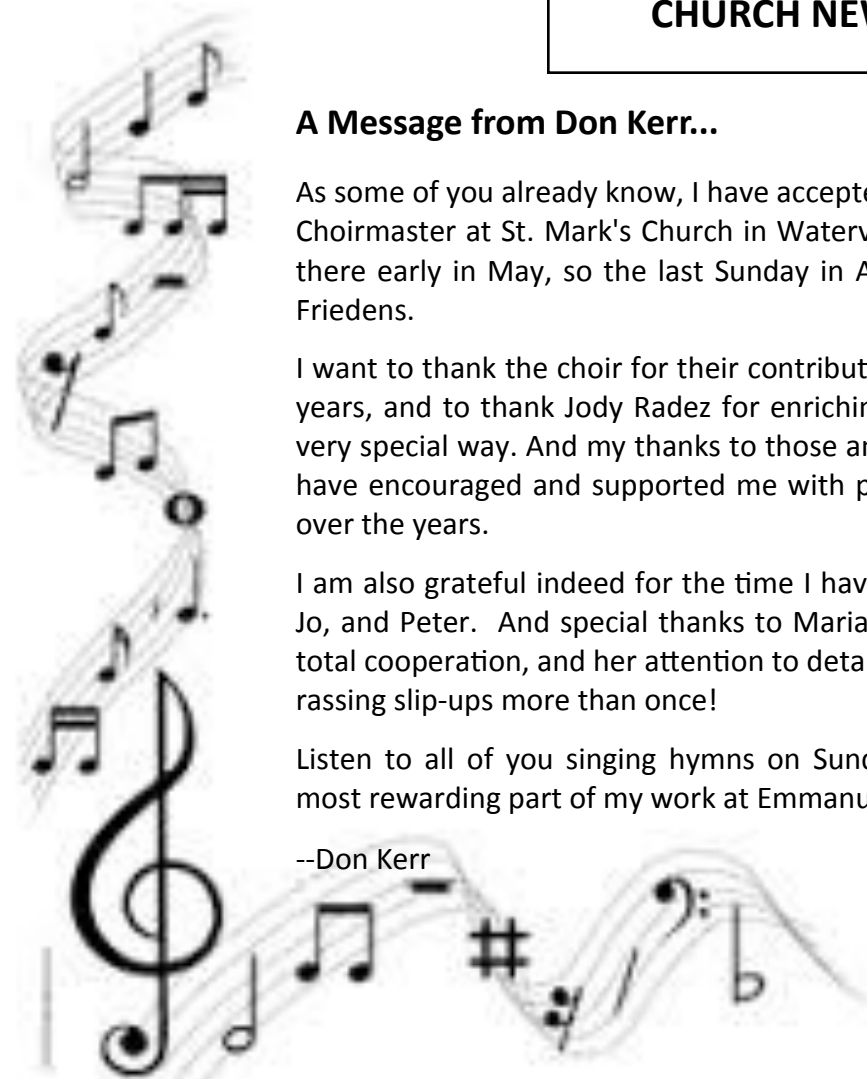
I've shared with Don both my joy for him and my regret for our congregation (and personally)

regarding his upcoming move. Collectively we will miss Don's spirit, musical talents, creativity as a composer and deep sense of worship in leading our church. Personally, I will miss our sit-down discussions on church music and ministry and Don's open and collaborative style of partnership in shaping worship.

Your Church Council has received word of Don's resignation at the most recent meeting and is planning to have a farewell reception for Don, most likely the last Sunday in April. Stay tuned for details.

We are also undertaking steps for the short term in finding an interim organist and choir director. Church Council will be assembling a search committee for a longer-term appointment, to assure that we keep on singing, or, in Don's words, we "keep at it."

Peace,
Peter



The Weeks Ahead in Worship

Sunday, April 5: Easter Sunday-- Communion-*We Share at Christ's Table* Readings: Isaiah 25:5-9, Acts 10:34-43
Sermon: **Resurrection Feasts**
Peter J.B. Carman, preaching

Sunday, April 12: Second Sunday in Easter; special music with the EFC Band and Singers

Guest Preacher: Rev. Marian Shearer. Marian is a member of Emmanuel Friedens Church who has just retired as our UCC Associate Conference Minister. She brings a fresh perspective and sharp wit; last time she spoke to us, she even created a song!

Sunday, April 19: Third Sunday in Easter
Readings: Luke 24:36b-48, Psalm 4
Sermon: **Sightings**
Peter J.B. Carman, preaching

Sunday, April 26: Fourth Sunday of Easter
Readings: Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24
Sermon: **The Bold Lover**
Peter J.B. Carman, preaching

Pastor Carman's sermons are posted on the church's website under "Sermons" and copies are also available on the wall next to the office.

The Easter Offering:

Church Council has determined this year's Easter Offering envelopes will be designated for Emergency Needs (Daconate Fund). If you would like to contribute but do not receive envelopes, they will be available on Easter Sunday morning, or you may contribute by designating clearly: "Emergency Needs" or "Daconate Fund" on your contribution. Contributions to this fund are used to assist church members and those in our wider community facing personal or family emergencies.



SAVE THE DATE

Quarterly Business Meeting
Sunday, April 19 at 12:15 pm
(following Sunday classes)

*Please join us on Sunday,
April 26 for a reception as we say thank
you and good-bye to Don Kerr.*

News from the Worship and Nurture Committee

Our new Worship and Nurture team has been assembled and our members include Jan Grigsby, Jocelyn McKinney, Peter Carman and Ruth Lindenfelser. We have been meeting and talking about some of the initiatives that we will be moving forward with over the next several months. Here are two that we're ready to roll out.....

Welcoming Ritual

In March, the Worship and Nurture Committee did a welcoming of the congregation at the beginning of our worship service. It is our intention to engage each committee and Sunday school class at Emmanuel Friedens in a monthly, welcoming ritual. The third Sunday of each month, our community will be welcomed to worship by a representative from a committee or Sunday school class. A general welcome will be extended as well as a reading chosen by the "welcomer (s)." It is our hope that this will provide an opportunity for our committees and our youth to be a part of extending a greeting to our community that welcomes new and old comers alike and sets a tone for our time together. While the details of worship and nurture rest with the committee, the act rests with each of us, as a community, each and every day. We look forward to watching this shared responsibility of welcoming unfold over the year.

Breaking Bread Together

One of the other initiatives we will be working on started with our previous committee members and that is the sharing of meals. In order to get to know each other better, members will be hosting meals in their homes (or possibly at church). We will be putting together sign up sheets that will offer meals at different locations, times of day and days of the week. Hopefully, people will find a place and a time that works for them. Be on the look out for the sign up sheets and ready your selves for some good food and fellowship! **"If you really want to make a friend, go to someone's house and eat with him... the people who give you their food give you their heart."** -Cesar Chavez

Notes of Thanks

Emmanuel Friedens received the following notes:

From the Matson Families, Linda Matson and Debbie Duffey..

The family of Betty Joyce Matson acknowledges with deep appreciation your kind expression of sympathy. Thank you for the beautiful flowers and for your support of our family at this time.

From the Andersons/Moffett Families..

Dear Emmanuel Friedens Church, Thank you all for the prayers, cards and support. We are blessed to have a wonderful church family. Thank you, Sláinte (to your good health-in Gaelic) .

From the Schenectady City School District-Kate Abbott, Ph.D., Director of Curriculum & Instruction..

Dear Ms. Puccio: On behalf of all the teachers who participated in professional development training, we want to thank you for allowing us space at Emmanuel Friedens to conduct our meeting. It was a wonderful and comfortable location and we thank you for assisting us with these accommodations and parking. Please accept our gratitude and appreciation.

UPCOMING DENOMINATIONAL EVENTS

- ⇒ Hudson Mohawk Association (HMA) Spring Mtg*, Saturday, April 18 starting at 9 am, held at Journey UCC in Delmar, NY
- ⇒ AB Women's Ministries and AB Girls of NYS Gathering, April 24-26 @ The Owego Treadway Inn & Suites, Owego NY (forms in church office)
- ⇒ UCC NY Women's Annual Conference, April 30-May 2 @ the Watson Homestead Conference Center, Painted Post, NY (forms in church office)
- ⇒ NYS Church Women United—May Friendship Day, Friday, May 1 starting at 9:30 am, meeting held at **Emmanuel Friedens**. More information to follow.
- ⇒ UCC New York Conference Annual Meeting*, June 5-7 at Silver Bay, NY. For more information, check out the website, www.uccny.org/events.
- ⇒ Biennial Mission Summit 2015, An American Baptist Gathering held on June 26-28, Overland Park/ Kansas City, KS. Theme, "Share the Journey" Registration ends June 12. Check the website for complete information—www.americanbaptist2015.com Peter Carman will be attending the meeting.
- ⇒ Unexpected Places. That's the theme for the UCC General Synod 2015. This June 26-30, 2015, it's in Cleveland, Ohio! Check out the website for more information, synod.uccpages.org

*We are seeking individuals interested in representing the church as delegates to the Spring and Fall UCC HMA meetings, and to the annual UCC NYS Conference Meeting. If you would like to serve, please contact Phil Grigsby, our moderator.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

4th Annual Gospel Jubilee
April 10 @ 7 pm -Proctors Theater
(flier located on bulletin board)

The Faith and Hunger Network of NYS Presents:

Working Together to End Hunger

When: Saturday, April 11 from 1-4 pm

Location: Hosted by the Sisters of St. Joseph,

Carondelet Hospitality Center
385 Watervliet Shaker Rd. In Latham

Keynote Speaker: Ellen Teller
Director of Government Affairs

Program includes:

Anti- Hunger Work in NYS (Panel Discussion)

4 Workshops to attend-

- What's faith got to do with it?
- Regional CROP Walks
- Bread for the World Offering of Letters
- Local best practices in grassroots advocacy

Free Event

Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM) Events

SICM Annual Day of Service, Saturday, April 25—

Join with other SICM members and the Schenectady community for outside cleaning of parks used for SICM's Summer Lunch Program. Call Janet Mattis at 374-2683 for information and if you would like to volunteer. Don't forget to bring a relative or friend to help.

And bring your gloves and rakes!

2015 Schenectady CROP WALK Sunday, May 3

**The Goal for this Year: 400 Walkers raising
\$45,000**

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES



The pool party was a hit! We ate home made pizza and snacks before the swim. Off to a rocky start (the YMCA had their days confused), everyone stayed in good spirits and enjoyed the swim on Sunday, March 22. We had 23 swimmers and 26 in attendance! It was a nice break after a long cold winter.

Schenectady High School Pool

POOL PARTY

Youth Group Happenings

On Sunday, March 15, the Youth hosted a St. Patrick's reception serving the Irish Soda bread that they baked the week before. Everyone seemed to enjoy. Thank you Margaret and Davis!



Annual Rummage Sale—Saturday, May 16

Now Collecting , place your "STUFF" in Rm. 119

Adult Sunday School

April 6: No class

April 21: Discussion of communication skills, "isms" led by Samantha Fletcher

April 19, 26: Journey Tasks force report-reflections by the Task Force on our new Vision Statement (April 19). Pastor Peter's sermon and an open discussion of the Vision and proposed first steps for the church (April 26).

May 3, 10 & 17: David Chancey will lead classes on Marcus Borg's book The God We Never Knew

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As a Welcoming and Affirming/
Open and Affirming Church, Emmanuel Baptist Church and Friedens United Church of Christ welcomes and affirms all persons without regard to sex, martial status, age , race, sexual orientation, or abilities, inviting all into membership, mission, and leadership.

STAY CONNECTED



www.facebook.com/emmanuelfriedenschurch

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CROP Walk Recruiters' Workshop—Tuesday, March 24
At Emmanuel Friedens

CROP (Communities Responding To Overcome Poverty) Walk—Sponsored by Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM) and Church World Services: The annual CROP Walk has consistently been in the top 25 in the country, thanks to many supporters from our area. This year's walk will be held on Sunday, May 3, rain or shine. The 5K walk begins and ends at Emmanuel Friedens. Registration begins at 12:30 pm and the walk kicks-off at 1:30 pm. It is a day of celebration and community building as we walk to raise money for hunger-fighting efforts in Schenectady and around the world. A full 25% of the money raised remains in our local community and is distributed to food pantries, the Community Crisis Network Center and Senior Meals (Catholic Charities).

All church members and friends are invited to participate in the Walk, either as a walker or to sponsor a walker with a donation. Our church raised over \$1,500 for the CROP Walk last year and we are hoping to raise even more this year because of the greater need for food in our community.

Once again this year, Jonette Ogonowski and Faye Bailey are our recruiters. They will start to recruit walkers and take donations from Sunday, April 12-May 3.