

THE ENVOY

A Newsletter of Emmanuel Friedens Church
American Baptist and United Church of Christ Congregation
218 Nott Terrace, Schenectady, NY 12307
Rev. Peter J.B. Carman, Pastor

Issue 355

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Contact Us:
(518) 374-4114
ebcfried@nycap.rr.com
www.emmanuelfriedens.org

Rev. Carman's E-mail
pjb.carman51@gmail.com

Minister of Music
Michael P. Harrison
mpharrison@comcast.net

Worship Hours
Sunday @ 10 am

Sunday Classes
(Sept-June)
11:15 am

Office Hours
9 am-3 pm M-F



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From the Pastor's Desk...

Dear friends,

Lent comes early this year. Ash Wednesday happens to be Valentine's Day, February the 14th. To make matters even more interesting, Easter falls on April Fool's Day.

Our Adult Education series on Sunday mornings will focus on different ways to live into the season, "exploring Lent"! Just to get the conversation rolling, here are a few of my thoughts this year.

For some a season of self-denial and penitence, the season, historically early on, took place at the time of year when many new Christians had traditionally prepared for Easter baptism. During the season of Lent, leading up to Easter, the church would take the time to remember that Baptismal faith and renew it: strengthening faith personally, through intentionality in prayer and personal practices. **Using this time to return to the basic commitment of our faith remains valuable.**

Lent culminates in Holy Week, the time set to remember the final week of Christ's life...leading to the cross. Some years ago, Brazilian liberation theologian Leonardo Boff published a book whose title was translated: *Way of the Cross: Way of Justice*. The title is a pithy reminder that **following Christ remains a costly path**. It is very much about being faithful by working for fairness, and freedom for those who are in captivity.

At Emmanuel Friedens Church this year, you will see that little banners have gone up in the main hall with the word "Peace" in many languages. Lent is a good time for us to explore personally how **Christ's Peace can shape our lives**, as well as a time to share our concerns for a world seemingly forever at war—in our own neighborhoods, in the nation, and throughout the world. Wednesday evenings starting the week AFTER Ash Wednesday, we will gather for prayers for peace and quiet reflection each week. We all need a time and place to quiet the mind, center the soul and recommit our lives to the Way of **the nonviolent cross**.

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In worship on Sunday mornings in Lent, my reflections will also try to focus on how we can grow deeper not only in prayer but in the practices of living Christ's *Shalom*, peace deep rooted in justice.

Nowadays, many of us take the season of Lent for granted. Others of us bypass it as best we can! And yet if we can get past preconception and stereotypes, **Lent remains a good time for going deeper in our faith, exploring our convictions and discerning how the rubber hits the road, in our daily living.**

If ever there was a time in our nation and world when we need to get intentional about our lives as children of God and companions of Christ, you and I are living in it. I invite you to join me in re-claiming this season of the Christian church year for growing deeper, readying ourselves for the risks of discipleship and **leaning into God's grace for the strength we need.**

In the Peace of Christ,
Peter

The Weeks Ahead in Worship

Ash Wednesday Service @ St. Joseph's Church, 600 State Street across from Veterans Park, February 14, 7:00 pm: An ecumenical prayer service with our friends from First United Methodist Church and St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church. Come be part of this gathering of downtown churches and receive ashes as the season of Lent begins.

Sunday, February 18: First Sunday in Lent
Readings: Mark 1:9-15, Genesis 9: 8-17
Sermon: **Rainbow Sign** Peter JB Carman is leading worship and preaching.

Sunday, February 25: Second Sunday in Lent
Readings: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Mark 8: 31-38
Sermon: **Follow Me** Peter JB Carman is leading worship and preaching.

Sunday, March 4: Third Sunday in Lent, Communion Sunday
Readings: Exodus 20:1-17, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
Sermon: **I Am** Peter JB Carman is leading worship and preaching.

Sunday, March 11: Fourth Sunday in Lent
Guest Preacher: Rev. Ashley Smith

Sunday, March 18: Fifth Sunday in Lent
Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34
Sermon: **New Deal** Youth will assist in worship.

Prayers for Peace

Mid-week gatherings in Lent will be held at Emmanuel Friedens Church on Wednesday evenings.
Dates: February 21 and 28, March 7, 14, and 21 at 7 pm.
(Bible Study-Shaping the Sermon will resume after Easter)

Christian Education Happenings

Sunday Adult Classes:

February 18– “Prayer and Parenting for Peace and Justice” – Danielle O'Brien

Our Lenten Series: “Exploring Lent”

February 25 – What is the meaning of Lent? The class will view the video “Lent Isn’t for Protestants, Is It?”

March 4, 11, 18 and 25: Class topics to be announced in the Sunday bulletin.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR!
EFC’s Annual**

POOL PARTY

Saturday, February 24 from 1-3 pm at the YMCA Pool located at Schenectady High School, 1445 The Plaza
Join us for goodies at Emmanuel Friedens at 12 noon.

Sign up today! Call the church office.



Sunday, February 11: Bake sale following worship-stop by the table and purchase a delicious cookie or brownie to go with your coffee or tea, or just to take home to eat later. Proceeds will benefit the Youth Group funds for special projects (e.g., providing Christmas gifts to a family in need through Catholic Charities)

Saturday-Sunday, February 17-18: Our Youth Group will be joining the youth of First United Methodist Church (FUMC) for an overnight at their church, meeting at 12 noon on Feb. 17, and staying through to Sunday morning to help out at FUMC’s breakfast.

Sunday, March 4: Youth will assist in worship.

Looking Forward: At their last meeting, the youth discussed upcoming plans to visit more places of worship, such as the Sikh temple and the First Reformed Church in Albany where Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden serves as interim pastor. They also started investigating possibilities for taking part in the Schenectady Pride celebration which occurs in early June. SO, STAY TUNED!!

Next Youth Group Meeting: Sunday, March 4



*Happy
Valentine’s Day
Everyone
2/14*

Emmanuel Friedens Church
218 Nott Terrace
Schenectady, NY 12307

March 2018 At A Glance

Lenten services at EFC

Prayers for Peace

Wednesday evenings @ 7 pm
Feb. 21, 28, March 7, 14 & 21

Tuesday, March 6

SICM Assembly at
Emmanuel Friedens, 7 pm

Sunday, March 11

Daylight Savings Time begins

Saturday, March 24

Community Brunch
10:30 –11:30 am

Sunday, March 25

Palm Sunday

Thursday, March 29

Maundy Worship Service
At First United Methodist Church

The March issue of the Envoy will be available the week of March 5, 2018. The deadline to submit articles, committee news, announcements, etc. is Friday, February 23,

Community News:

Special Collection to Benefit the Victims of the Nott Terrace Mudslide – The Community Crisis Network (CCN) is currently assessing the needs of these victims. If you would like to donate, please make your checks payable to SCAP/CCN and mail to SCAP, 913 Albany Street in Schenectady 12307. If you would rather give through our church, please note in the memo section of your check, “mudslide victims.” Thank you.

Note to Schenectady Senior Resident Homeowners – Renewal applications for the Enhanced (Senior) School Tax Relief (STAR) Exemption for 2018 are due by March 1, 2018 in the city of Schenectady. Renewal forms are available in city Hall, Room #8 or at www.tax.ny.gov (RP-425 Rnw). Any questions, call 518 382-5075.

For more information regarding community news -
Always check out the church bulletin board.

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



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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;