

THE ENVOY

Built on tradition • Living in the spirit • Celebrating our future

Issue 323

February 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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Insert

February Calendar

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Emmanuel Friedens Friends,

It is hard to believe we are already approaching the season of Lent, in just a couple of weeks. We have good plans for the season this year: An Ash Wednesday service as guests of St. Joseph's Church, a service led jointly; Evenings for quiet reflection and prayer each Wednesday thereafter here at Emmanuel Friedens; and a Maundy Thursday Service (the Thursday just before Good Friday, shared with our friends at First United Methodist Church, and held here at Emmanuel Friedens.

The United Church of Christ New York Conference is also offering resources for Lent: you can find these referenced elsewhere in the *Envoy*.

What is Lent, anyway?

Here at Emmanuel Friedens, we come from a wide variety of faith backgrounds. Some of us grew up with a Lenten discipline that included fasting and penitential prayer. Others of us grew up in settings that weren't particularly religious: so Lent remains, in a very real way, a mystery.

Those of us with backgrounds in the United Church of Christ come out of churches that historically ranged widely on such things. A few of us grew up in churches actively opposed to a "seasons" approach to Faith. As for Baptists? A member of my family with mixed feelings about church holidays once articulated this as "Every Sunday is Christmas and Easter". We who manage proudly to disagree with each other on most things while loving each other anyway, also remember that in earlier times Lent was the time of year traditionally reserved for the preparation of new candidates for Baptism. And it seems like a good time to remember that commitment and renew it, in a somewhat disciplined way.

For forty days (leaving out Sundays) before Easter, much of Christianity sets aside time to do just that, to renew the commitment of Baptism, to re-focus our energy and prayer life. Some give up something or fast as a tangible reminder of commitment; some take on a special task or discipline. The point of these things, simply put, is to start over: confess what needs confessing, strengthen what has grown weak, deepen in prayer; reclaim our walk of faith as something intentional, even as we acknowledge it is rooted in God's grace not our own efforts.

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My personal plans for this Lent are fairly simple. For starters, I intend to pray daily for peace in our community and world, and reflect in an intentional way on how my life and our life together may be more deeply aligned with Christ's desire for a world of Love and Justice. It's for that I invite you to join me Wednesday evenings (see below) to do a little meditating and praying and reflecting. Our Lenten Adult Church School Series will focus on the theme of *Journey Inward, Journey Outward*, spurred by Elizabeth O'Connor's classic little reflection of the same name.

As you make your own plans (if you so plan) for a season of personal spiritual renewal, let me know if you want ideas or support! The history of Christianity is rich with diverse approaches to this season; it may be just the year for you and me to take advantage of those resources in a new way! Blessings in the heart of winter, from the warmth of your church office!

In Christ's Peace,
Peter



Opportunities for Worship, Learning and Prayer

Ash Wednesday Service @ St. Joseph's Church, Wednesday, February 18, 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. This service will be led by representatives of all three churches.

Mid-Week Services—Prayers for Peace

When: 7:00 pm Five Wednesday Evenings in February and March:

February 25, March 4, 11, 18, and 25

Where: Emmanuel Friedens Church, in the Chapel

What: Join us for times of informal discussion, quiet contemplation and candlelight prayer, as we share our concern for Christ's Peace with Justice, in our world, our local community, our workplaces and our homes.

Palm Sunday, March 29

Maundy Thursday Remembrance of the Last Supper, 7:00 pm Thursday, April 2

A service shared with First United Methodist Church, our neighbors. The service this year will be held at Emmanuel Friedens! More details to come.



Lenten Veggie Fast (Blessing the Earth)

"The goal is to engage in the spiritual discipline of a healthy diet and cleansing lifestyle that "blesses the earth" through ecologically sustainable and justice focused food choices and consumption habits."

How does it work? At least one day/week during Lent, each person who "pledges participation" will eat a diet focused on blessing the earth as well as her/his mind, body and spirit.

If you are interested in participating or would like more information, go to website, www.uccny.org (UCC NY Conference) and click "UCC NY News Lenten Fast. "

The Weeks Ahead in Worship

Sunday, February 8: Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Readings: Mark 1:29-39, Isaiah 40:21-31
Special Musical Offering from Emmanuel Friedens Band
Sermon: *On the Wings of an Eagle*
Peter J.B. Carman, preaching

Sunday, February 15: Transfiguration Sunday
(Last Sunday before Lent)
Readings: 2 Kings 2:1-12, Mark 9:2-9,
Sermon: *The Whirlwind*
Peter J.B. Carman, preaching

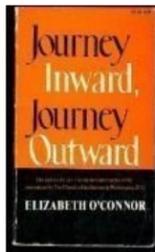
Sunday, February 22: First Sunday in Lent
Readings: Genesis 9:8-17, Mark 1:9-15
Sermon: *The Dove and the Bow*
Peter J.B. Carman, preaching

Sunday, March 1: Second Sunday in Lent
Communion Sunday
Readings: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Mark 8: 31-38
Joani Jameson, preaching

Christian Education and Activities News

Adult Sunday School Classes

February 8, 15—Topic: War and Peace (Faithful Responses to Violence) - We will discuss different types of violence occurring throughout the world and what are the appropriate Christian responses to this violence. On February 8, Dale Hedman will lead a class on the responses to violence in the New Testament. Join us on February 15 when Merle Longwood, retired Professor of Religion Studies at Siena College specializing in ethics, will speak on the topic "Christian Pacifism and Just War Theory."



February 22-March 29 — Our Lenten study this year is based on the book, *Journey Inward, Journey Outward* by Elizabeth O'Connor. *The author writes of the church's vital balance of engagement with self, God, and others ("journey inward"), and of how it proceeds from this solid base of involvement with the needs of the greater community ("the journey outward").* As we enter a new chapter of our journey together at Emmanuel Friedens Church, reflecting on the relationship between the inner and outer dimensions of the life of faith is a timely thing to do!

Discussions will be led by members of the congregation.



Youth Group Happenings

January 31: The Youth Group participated in the January Dinner for People Living with HIV/AIDs & their family Members at the Albany Damien Center, held @ The First Lutheran Church, Western Avenue in Albany.

February 15: Following worship, there will be a St. Valentine's Day reception hosted by the Youth.

Save the Date

Annual Rummage Sale—Saturday, May 16
Now Collecting , place your "STUFF" in Rm. 119

SAVE THE DATE

Family Winter Pool Party
Sunday, March 22
Schenectady High School
More information to come



Church News

Annual Meeting — January 25, 2015

A good spirit prevailed at our church's Annual Meeting on Sunday January 25th. As is custom in this congregation, the gathering began with a meal together. Thanks to all for the delicious chili, soup and other good food and to Marilyn Bisgrove and Evelyn Kauffman for pulling it all together, in advance and on the day!

Following lunch we had our business meeting, chaired by moderator Phil Grigsby. The meeting began with a remembrance of members of the church who died in 2014; we were assisted by some of our children and youth, who lit a candle for each church member who had died, and one for others we have lost who are not members of this church.

In the democratic spirit which is part of Emmanuel Friedens Church, there were good questions and healthy discussion of church finances and the church budget. The budget was passed, thanks to a great effort by the stewardship team and careful work putting the budget together by Rich Soellner and the Church Council.

New church officers and committee members were elected! With the help of a few ready and cheerful volunteers, along with great effort by the Nominating Committee, all the positions in our church's governing/program structure are filled. Along with financial reports, we received reports both written and verbal from our committee chairs, pastor and moderator.

The list of newly elected officers and committee members follows in this newsletter. New chairs will be elected by the committees between now and our February Church Council meeting, on Monday, February 23.

Thanks to all for a very good lunch and meeting. It was good to witness the congregation put in practice once again the conviction that the Church is really the people: the whole body. Peter

EMMANUEL FRIEDENS CHURCH

Officers and Committees—2015

<u>Moderator</u> Phillip Grigsby	Church Staff Relations <u>Committee</u> Mary Lou Chotkowski Betty Detwyler Jan Grigsby Kevin O'Brien	<u>Trustees</u> Jeanne Andersons Bart Bisgrove* Mary Lou Chotkowski Evelyn Kauffman Angela Keller Greg Lindenfelser Greg Lindenfelser Artie Loftis Jocelyn McKinney Tony Rozek Vern Scoville* * Honorary Lifetime Member
<u>Vice Moderator</u> Faye Saville	<u>Hamilton Christian Student Fund</u> Jeanne Andersons Josephine Cristy Janice Fiore Charlie Lent Debi Lent Ruth Lindenfelser Danielle O'Brien	<u>Worship and Nurture</u> Jan Grigsby Ruth Lindenfelser Jocelyn McKinney
<u>Church Clerk</u> Josephine Cristy	<u>Outreach and Mission</u> Robyn Axon Cassidy Lent Greg Lindenfelser Pat McAllister June Schermerhorn Jackie Scholten Marian Shearer Hazel Wilson	Representatives to: <u>Capital Area Baptist Association</u> Josephine Cristy Pat McAllister
<u>Assistant Church Clerk</u> Debi Lent	<u>Safe Church Incident Review</u> <u>Team</u> David Chancey Debi Lent	<u>Interfaith Community of Schenectady</u> Pat Bumbarger Peter Carman
<u>Treasurer</u> Evelyn Kauffman	<u>Social Functions and Fellowship</u> Jeanne Andersons Marilyn Bisgrove Hazel Wilson	<u>Schenectady Inner City Ministry</u> John Detwyler Pat McAllister
<u>Associate Treasurer</u> Vern Scoville	<u>Stewardship</u> David Chancey Debi Lent Faye Saville	
<u>Assistant Treasurers</u> Ray Andersons Alice Rozek Jackie Scholten		
<u>Financial Secretary</u> Chuck Lent		
<u>Assistant Financial Secretaries</u> Tony Rozek Faye Saville Jim Shearer		
<u>Historian</u> Patty Soellner		
<u>Christian Education and Activities</u> Marilyn Bisgrove Sheila Freres Nancy Spencer		
<u>Children and Youth</u> Margaret Mitchell Jackie Scholten Rich Soellner		

REMINDER TO OUR COMMITTEES!

It is time to elect our committee chairs for church year 2015. Following your organizing meetings, please report the new chairs to Maria Puccio in the church office (ebcfried@nycap.rr.com) as soon as possible, so we can inform the church and make sure the Church Council is fully represented for our next meeting on Monday, February 23 at 7:00 PM.

~ RECIPE LOVERS ~

Jane Foster loved cook books and recipes. Through her estate we have received her recipe box. Recipes brought to church gatherings, as far back as 1949, are in this recipe box—plus some well worn ones from Jane's grandmother and aunts. If you would like to look through the box and perhaps copy a few recipes, it will be in the church kitchen for the next few weeks. Please, enjoy! ... Mary Lou Chotkowski

Our January Brunch



On December 27, 2014, your Outreach and Mission Committee began a new ministry. Every LAST Saturday of the month, when food and funds for many families and individuals are scarce, we now offer brunch, served "sit-down-style" at tables, with church members and community members sharing together at a common meal, free of charge. The second time brunch was served on Sunday, January 31. The event saw continued great participation by Emmanuel Friedens members and friends, and saw a modest increase in numbers with more than thirty guests served. Many thanks to all who took part, as we continue growing a much needed ministry in our church neighborhood. If you would like further information on helping out, contact Cassidy Lent. ... Peter

Notes of Thanks

During the month of January, the church has received quite a few letters of thanks and thank you cards for monetary and other donations given in the 2014 year. Presented below are those from the Schenectady Christmas Bureau for the church's Giving Tree donations, the City Mission of Schenectady for donations of boxes of candies sponsored by our Niles Judson Circle Group, and from the Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM) for donations of money and food. All are posted on the church bulletin board.

Dear Maria Puccio and Friends:

Every year we are blessed to have dedicated friends like you. With your help of 11 gifts to be able to help our seniors at the Glendale Nursing Home with something special at Christmas. And thank you for all the gifts for the children. Thank you for your help and we look forward to working again with you. ... Love Kathleen Vanderstynne and Amy Davis of the Christmas Bureau

... On behalf of all those you've helped, we wish you many blessings in the new year! ... Your friends at the City Mission of Schenectady.

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Notes of Thanks (Continued)

Excerpt... Thank you for your generous support to SICM's work! We appreciate your help more than ever in these challenging times. Your compassionate support helps in many ways May God Bless you for your kindness, Rev. Phillip N. Grigsby, Schenectady Inner City Ministry

Community News (Events Honoring Black History Month)

Film Showing— All are welcome to attend a free showing of Freedom Summer, a two-hour American Experience documentary from the Sundance Film Festival World Premiere in 2014—produced by Mont Pleasant High School Graduate, Cyndee Readdean. This powerful documentary will be shown on Friday, February 13 beginning @ 5:30 pm at Schenectady High School in the auditorium. There will be time for discussion with Cyndee following the showing.

Review: *In the hot and deadly summer of 1964, the nation could not turn away from Mississippi. Over 10 memorable weeks known as the Freedom Summer, more than 700 student volunteers joined with organizers and local African Americans in a historic effort to shatter the foundations of white supremacy in one of the nation's most segregated states- even in the face of intimidation, physical violence and death.*

Cyndee is a nationally recognized filmmaker and the daughter of Shirley Readdean, SICM's current President and a former member of the Schenectady County Human Rights Commission. For further information, contact the Schenectady City School District.

Community News (Continued)

Schenectady County Community College invites the public to the following events in celebration of Black History Month.

Wednesday, 2/11: Marsha Mortimore presents The History of African Americans in Schenectady-11:30-12:30 p.m., Lally Mohawk Room, free event. Marsha Mortimore is a local historian and Vice President of the Schenectady Silhouettes. Immediately followed Ms. Mortimore's presentation, Donald "Soul Man" Hyman performs the Story of Motown in Song (free event).

Wednesday, 2/18: "Soul Food Luncheon" Special Guests: Friendship Baptist Church Gospel Choir accompanied by Azzaam Hameed on keyboard. 11:30 am in the Van Curler Room - **Cost is \$18.** For tickets, please contact Deryle McCann, Student Activities Advisor at (518) 836-2828 or e-mail mccannda@sunysccc.edu by February 11.

Tuesday, 2/24: Pulitzer Prize Winner Gilbert King, author of *Devil in the Grove: Thurgood Marshall, the Groveland Boys, and the Dawn of a New America* (Sponsored by the Community and Cultural Events Committee) -6:30 pm in the Carl B. Taylor Auditorium, Free event.

Wednesday, 2/25: "Pledge for Humanity: What Role Will You Play?" 11:30 a.m., Activity Forum, A thought-provoking presentation through images, poetry and panel discussion. Free event.

Interfaith Dinner Meeting, Tuesday, February 24 6:30 pm dinner (\$15), 7:30 pm Program (free); @ the Dominican Retreat and Conference Center— "Nonviolent Communication: How to have a better conversations!" presented by Stephen Andersen

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

Emmanuel Friedens Church
218 Nott Terrace
Schenectady, NY 12307

Mark Your Calendar

Wednesdays,
March 4, 11, 18 & 25
Lenten Services @ EFC at 7 pm

Sunday, March 8
Daylight Savings Begin

Sunday, March 22
Winter Pool Party
Schenectady High School

Saturday, March 28
Community Brunch
@ EFC, 10:30-11:30 pm

The March issue of the ENVOY will be available by March 8. The deadline to submit announcements, committee news. etc. is February 23. Thank you.

Denominational News



The American Baptist Churches of New York State presents *Change, Church & Changing Church* on Saturday, March 7 beginning at 10 am to be held at the Latham Community Baptist Church, 109 Forts Ferry Road. "How can we lead so that needed changes are positive and support the Mission to which God has called us? All of us deal with change, transition and all the possibilities and anxieties that change brings! Come and learn so your church can realign and thrive!"

There will be three workshops to choose from; Interim Ministry & You (Dr. Bill Tatum), There Goes the Neighborhood (Rev. Jerrod Huguenot), or Generational Change (Dr. Jim Kelsey). Registration deadline is February 28. If you wish to register on line or to pay by credit card, go to www.abc-nys-org & click the "Change Conference" link. The cost is \$25/person, \$15/person if 3 or more people register from the same church. Look for the flyer on the church bulletin board for more information.