

# 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 354

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**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...

### Hold fast to joy!

Dear Emmanuel Friedens friends,

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of December at 10 AM, an exceptionally cold Sunday morning, we gathered to worship at Emmanuel Friedens Church. With half an hour to go 'til the starting notes of Michael's prelude, I thought we might only be three or four of us in worship, but as so often you do, you surprised me. There you were! I asked Freddie Anderson, that intrepid outdoorswoman, how she was doing with the cold, and she looked me square in the eye and said: "Cold?"

That morning, I mused during the sermon time about new year's resolutions. And then I went home, secretly reassuring myself that I would make none this year.

At 5 after midnight, having ushered in the new year listening to music, I turned off the lights and crawled into bed, still resolution free. I made it through Monday and Tuesday still more or less free, although I had figured out that my sermon might have been an invitation, all together, to some fresh resolve.

Then came Wednesday. It was Wednesday morning that I discovered that while the mind had refused any bold intentions for the emerging new year, the heart had proceeded without it. I had resolved finally to do what I have been talking about all last year on and off to others: be joyful. Refuse to let my joy be stolen by circumstances or even Grinch-like world leaders. Look deep to the Source of life and love; sniff the air and feel the wind for the presence of a Spirit. Insist on joy!

"With my Maker I am one!" So goes a song by blues musician Eric Bibb. As people of faith, our joy does not come just in reaction to good things happening, or from a rush of positive happy feelings. Our joy comes from an intimate and loving relationship with our Maker. Our joy finds its fire in a sacred Spirit's movement. Our joy finds its fulfilment in walking as companions of Christ: in ministries of healing; of hospitality; of justice; of reconciliation.

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I pray that the coming year will be joyful for you as well. May God bless each of you with the kind of persistence and good humor that got you to church on December 31<sup>st</sup>. May God open you to new discoveries and new friendships. And may God bless you with fullness of life, and much love.

In Christ's Peace,  
Peter

## The Weeks Ahead in Worship

**Sunday, January 7:** Epiphany Sunday, Communion Sunday  
Worship will include the celebration of Believers Baptism of Jamaica Miles

Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6, Mark 1:4-11

Meditation: **A New Kind of Leadership**

Peter JB Carman is leading worship and preaching.

**Sunday, January 14:** Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

Readings: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20), Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Sermon: **A Voice in the Night**

Peter JB Carman is leading worship and preaching.

**Sunday, January 21:** Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Readings: Jonah 3:1-5, 10, Mark 1:14-20

Sermon: **Turning Hearts**

Peter JB Carman is leading worship and preaching.

**Sunday, January 29:** Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Readings: Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Mark 1:21-28

Sermon: **The Power of Words**

Peter JB Carman is leading worship and preaching.

**Sunday, February 4:** Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

We Share at the Communion Table.

## Annual Business Meeting

Sunday, January 28, 2018

Following Worship

Please make sure that you attend this meeting as we vote on the 2018 church budget, and elect officers and committee members. Thank you.

A lunch will be served after the invocation.

Committee chairpersons and church officers, please submit your report to the office by Friday, January 19 via e-mail or on a USB flash drive

Thank you.



## Community News



### 50th Anniversary Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Service Sunday, January 14

#### Theme:

#### “Together We Win Love for Humanity”

This year's special celebration, sponsored by the Schenectady County Human Rights-Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition, will be held on Sunday, January 14 at 2:30 pm at SUNY Schenectady County Community College Carl B. Taylor Auditorium. The keynote speaker will be Michael A. Blake, State Assembly member and DNC Vice Chair from NYS. Everyone is invited to attend and to participate in this celebration. For more information including singing in the King Choir, please contact the Human Rights Commission at 518 377-3823.

#### Interfaith Community of Schenectady, Inc. - January Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, January 10, 6:30 pm Dinner, 7:30 pm Program, held at the Dominican Retreat and Conference Center, 1945 Union Street, Schenectady, NY 12309

Program Description: "Faith from the Universalist Unitarian Society" Rev. Wendy Bartel & Rev. Lynn Gardner, presenters. Dinner is \$15 payable at the door. Program only is free. Reservations to the IFC office, schdyinterfaith@yahoo.com or 370-2150.

For more community and denominational news -  
Always check out the church bulletin board  
for information.

### Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Shabbat Service, Friday, January 19 Community Conversation and a Hearty Soup Dinner (at Congregation Gates of Heaven 852 Ashmore Avenue, Schdy)

The Shabbat Service begins at 5 pm; 6 pm, dinner and 7 pm, a conversation on diversity with guest speaker Stephen C. Ainlay, President of Union College. The suggested donation for dinner would be what you would pay to go out to eat. All proceeds benefit the Schenectady Inner City Ministries. **RSVP** by January 12 to [klaws@cgo.org](mailto:klaws@cgo.org) or call 518 374-8173. Please bring a school supply donation which will be distributed to area schools in need. (Sponsored by the Schdy Clergy Against Hate Coalition )

### February 2018 At A Glance

Thursday, February 1  
Carol Tumbelston's  
Memorial Service @ 1 pm

Sunday, February 4  
Don Berggren concert @ 3 pm

Monday, February 19  
Church office is closed-  
President's Day Holiday

Saturday, February 24  
Community Brunch  
10:30 -11:30 am

The February issue of the Envoy will be available the week of February 5, 2018. The deadline to submit articles, committee news, announcements, etc. is Wednesday, January 31, 2018. Thank you.

Emmanuel Friedens Church  
218 Nott Terrace  
Schenectady, NY 12307

## Special Offering

### To Support Retired Ministers and Others in the American Baptist and United Church of Christ Churches

Throughout the month of January, Emmanuel Friedens Church will receive a special offering to support retired missionaries and ministers. As a congregation that is part of two denominational families, we invite members and friends to contribute either to the **Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and Emergency Fund** (United Church of Christ) or to the **Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering** (American Baptist).

Our retired missionaries and ministers deserve ongoing support in retirement. Both the **Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering** and the **Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross** offer channels to express our gratitude for the lifetimes of service so many pastors, relief and development workers, and educators have offered. They also provide emergency funds that are shared with retired church workers and their families in times of challenge or crisis.

Following God's call involves choices and sacrifices. Often those sacrifices are financial. Retired ministers, missionaries and their spouses frequently have limited resources once they come to retirement age, because of the decisions they have made to give their professional skills in service to God and to their neighbors. Please consider giving generously through one of these two avenues, to say thank you and express our continued support for those who have dedicated their lives to service of God and their neighbors.

**Appropriate envelopes are provided in your newsletter**, or may be picked up in church any Sunday morning. Thanks for giving generously!

### 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;

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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