

# 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

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

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

Worship Hours  
Sunday @ 10 am

Sunday Classes  
(Sept-June)  
11:15 am

Office Hours  
9 am-3 pm M-F



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Issue 330

October 2015

## From the Pastor's Desk...

Dear Friends,

September has been full of activity and busy with changes at Emmanuel Friedens. The season ahead promises to be even fuller and more joyful.

Recently **Catholic Charities Care Coordination Services** moved in to the upper floor of our building. I am very pleased that an agency involved in health care outreach to some of the most vulnerable folk in our city will be able to use the space once occupied by Mohawk Opportunities. While they are our "tenants", they also represent the kind of ministry that we as a congregation have a deep interest in supporting and having present here in Schenectady.

**Our church musician search** continues apace! We hope in the not too distant future to be able to introduce you to a new part time music minister: don't get confused by the title! This is not an ordained ministry position! However we are actively seeking someone who conceives of the role of our church musician as a ministry, and understands the central role of a great variety of kinds of music in our ministry as a whole. And all I can say today is... the search is going well! More on that as soon as we have it to share publicly.

I am delighted that on October 11 we will celebrate forty years of **Larry Phillips'** ordained ministry by naming him with the **honorary title of Pastor Emeritus**. Does this mean that we get Larry back as an additional pastor? By no means! Larry is (remarkably) clear that he is retired from pastoral ministry, and clear on maintaining personal and professional boundaries. However this celebration gives us an opportunity to acknowledge how much the almost thirty years of Larry's ministry here has meant to us, and to affirm how important he, and Faye and their family remain to the congregation. Be there!

As we look further ahead, **November 21** is the date for our shared one day **retreat** with Emmanuel Baptist Church of Albany, to be held at First Reformed Church of Scotia (where Lynn, my wife currently serves as Interim Pastor). **Faithing up to Racism** is our theme, and leadership will be provided by a gifted team of facilitators—more information is available within. We are hoping that people of all ages, including youth and children, will want to take part!

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What holds the busy church schedule together? A caring community of people from different traditions, backgrounds and with different tastes, united in the love we learn from Jesus, trying to live it out in practical hands-on ways.

As we honor our long-time former pastor, and look forward to a new season of church music, wrestle with difficult issues of our day, and welcome new friends in ministry to the building, it is my prayer that we will taste fresh excitement, experience great energy and reach for new horizons as a congregation. I am full of appreciation for this gifted and visionary little group of people we call Emmanuel Friedens. Blessings on the places of shared ministry and life in community where **you** engage. May we grow together in spirit, and in joy.

In Christ's Peace,  
Peter

## Special Event

### Rev. J. Larry Phillips to be Honored as Minister Emeritus of Emmanuel Friedens Church



At its most recent meeting, the Emmanuel Friedens Church Council unanimously voted to grant Larry the honorary title of Pastor Emeritus, if he would accept it, in recognition of his nearly thirty years of ministry in this place, his pastoral presence, and the many, many ways he has served both this congregation and in the wider community. On Sunday October 11, during our worship service we will celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination to ministry of our retired pastor, Larry Phillips, and honor him by naming him as Pastor Emeritus.

Larry's ministry will be recognized and celebrated during our worship service and at a reception to follow. He has expressed the sentiment that the most important aspect of the morning for him is the opportunity personally to greet individuals and families, and celebrate the many relationships he has had.

Be sure to join us next Sunday, October 11 both in worship and for the opportunity to greet Larry and Faye and say thank you in person, at the reception following.

## Worship and Fellowship

### The Weeks Ahead in Worship

**Sunday, October 4:** World Communion Sunday-We Share at the Table of Christ's Love

- Reading: Mark 10:13-16
- Meditation: **The Peace of God is a Child**
- Peter J.B. Carman leading worship

**Sunday, October 11:** A special celebration of the ministry of Larry Phillips

- Readings: Psalm 46 and Romans 12:1-18
- Peter J.B. Carman leading worship

**Sunday, October 18**

- Reading: Mark 10: 17-31
- Sermon: **One Hundredfold**
- Peter J.B. Carman leading worship

**Sunday, October 25:**

- Reading: Mark 10: 35-45
- Sermon: **Rethinking Greatness**
- Peter J.B. Carman leading worship

**Sunday, November 1:** We Share at Christ's Table

- Reading: Mark 12:28-34
- Meditation: **One Love**
- Peter J.B. Carman leading worship



### A Reminder: Daylight Savings Time Ends

Don't be an early bird for worship on November 1. Remember to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday evening (10/31).



### FAITHING UP TO RACISM— A SHARED CHURCH RETREAT (EMMANUEL BAPTIST OF ALBANY AND EMMANUEL FRIEDENS CHURCHES)

In this troubling historical moment, many of us struggle to understand and navigate chronic, racial issues. How does our faith help us even talk about race, let alone act in faithful ways to dismantle the structural racism of our day?

This one-day retreat offers a grace-filled opportunity to engage in spiritual practices, like humility and deep listening to experiences that are not our own, as we bring our faith to bear on this spiritual/and political/and human problem. Skilled facilitators will tell stories and lead conversations to encourage our own sharing and fuller understanding.

The retreat will be held on Saturday, November 21 from 8:30 am-4 pm at the First Reformed Church of Scotia, 224 N. Ballston Ave. Cost: adults, \$20/person, children and youth, **FREE**. Scholarships are available – please ask Peter.

We invite all to attend.

**Check the church's website  
Registration is due by October 25**

Shared Church Events:

- ⇒ Bonfire/Hayride for all Ages: Sunday, October 18 following Sunday School, Riverview Orchards in Rexford
- ⇒ Pulpit Exchange: Sunday, November 8. The Rev. Kathy Donley will preach at our church.
- ⇒ Potluck Supper: Saturday, November 21 @ 5:30 pm, Emmanuel Baptist Church in Albany

## Mission

### October is World Mission Offering Month for American Baptist Churches

Throughout the month of October, we will receive the World Mission Offering for American Baptist Churches. Envelopes are being provided in this month's Envoy and will also be available in the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings.

Many of us grew up with peculiar images of what a missionary is and does. American Baptists have however for many years been committed to a wide and holistic array of international ministries. Here are a few examples!

Since 2001, **Drs. David and Laura Parajón** have been serving remote rural communities in Nicaragua. David is an internist and Laura is a family physician and both have training in Public Health. They work to bring health, hope and healing to the impoverished and vulnerable people of Nicaragua through AMOS - A Ministry of Sharing. The clinics and health promoters they have helped organize have contributed to significant reductions in the number of deaths among children and women in their communities. David and Laura have also been receiving short-term mission teams that work in construction projects alongside village members.

**Lauran Bethell** is a global consultant on human trafficking. Her main goal is to initiate and encourage new grass-roots projects addressing the exploitation and abuse of women and children, many of whom are victims of trafficking. While based in The Netherlands, she travels extensively throughout Europe, Asia and the Americas, teaching, training and consulting.

**Duane and Marcia Binkley** serve ethnic Karen, Chin and Kachin refugees originally from the country of Burma who are coming to live in the U.S. as legal immigrants. They are partnering with Central Baptist Theological Seminary to organize training classes for pastors and church leaders among these ethnic communities. They also maintain relationships with Baptist organizations in Thailand and within the refugee camps along the Thai- Burma border.

These are but three examples of the vital work of empowerment and organizing that gifts to the American Baptist World Mission Offering support. Consider a generous gift to support the work of empowerment and hope in which they and many others are involved.

### Community Brunch Donation

We are asking for donations of candy (packaged) to be given out at the next Community Brunch (October 31). The Brunch Committee plans on having the children that attend the brunch "trick-or treat" while they are here. Please bring your donations to the church office. Thank you.

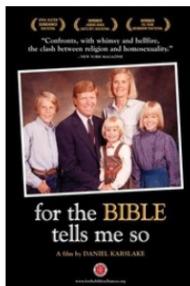


**Christian Education & Activities**

**Adult Sunday School Series Continues**

Our Fall Adult Discussion Series continues for the month of October. Our Theme is *Carefully Taught to Hate—Faith's Response to Racism*. Be sure to join us for what promises to be educational and thought provoking discussion.

- October 4: Topic, Structures of Privilege; led by Samantha and Jeff Fletcher
- October 11: No Sunday Classes
- October 18: Topic: How the Bible has been used to justify oppression; led by Dale Hedman
- October 25: Topic; Christian faith and our response to hate; a conversation with Keith Lewis, Executive producer of the award-winning film, *For the Bible Tells Me So*. Keith grew up in Emmanuel Baptist Church.



There will be a film showing of the award winning documentary, *For the Bible Tells Me So* on Friday, October 23, 7 pm at Emmanuel Friedens Church. The film focuses on how conservative Christians' interpretation of the Bible is commonly used to stigmatize and deny the rights of the gay community.

The film release date was 2007. The film is rated PG-13.

Pizza will be served at 6:30 pm.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the hallway. If you are unable to attend, please join us for Adult Sunday class on October 25 to meet Keith Lewis.

This event is sponsored by the Adult Education Committee.



Fall Family Fun Day, Sunday, October 18 from 1-3:30 pm  
 @ Riverview Orchards, Rexford NY  
 Hayride, bonfire, donuts, cider, s'mores, hot dog roast  
 Sign up on Sunday mornings!  
 We will be joined by Emmanuel Baptist Church of Albany.  
 \$5/person \$15 max/family

**Christian Education & Activities  
(Continued)**



October 3: The Youth Group held their annual clothing sale and with all the clothes and accessories lined up on the tables and hung on clothing racks in Fellowship Hall (what a sight!). We are sure it was a success as they helped out our community neighbors.

November 6-8: The NYS American Baptist Youth Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn Syracuse in Liverpool, NY. If any youth are interested in attending, please contact Nancy Spencer.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

MAKE SURE TO CHECK THE ENCLOSED CALENDAR FOR OTHER MEETINGS AND EVENTS!

**Quarterly Business Meeting**

This meeting will be held on Sunday, October 25 following Sunday School classes. We encourage you to attend this most important meeting. Sometimes we forget this is one of the church's most critical meetings as we begin the process of planning next year's budget. We need your input!

**Advent Planning**

Please join us on Tuesday, October 13 at 7 pm as we begin planning for this year's Advent and Christmas programs. This meeting is open to all so come and share your ideas.

**NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

For those of you who did not have the opportunity to see Marcia Tolman this summer, she has received a call to ministry at Ebenezer United Church of Christ. The church is located in West Seneca, NY just south of Buffalo. She is their part-time Director of Faith Formation and her work began on July 13<sup>th</sup>. Marcia moved in to her new apartment and it was quite the adventure figuring out a schedule of working and moving all summer. She hopes to obtain a part-time teaching position in the area schools. For those wishing to keep in touch or check on the progress you can see it all on Facebook . Marcia’s new address is: 30 Provincetown Lane – Apartment 1, Orchard Park, NY 14127 and e-mail is [marciatolmancm@gmail.com](mailto:marciatolmancm@gmail.com). There will be an installation service for Marcia at Ebenezer on Sunday, October 18 @ 5 pm.

*“Thank you for all your support and commitment during my first call to ministry at Emmanuel Friedens. The memories will always be a part of my life. Peace and Blessings, Marcia.”*

We extend our congratulations to David Chancey and Doug Guevara who were married on Saturday, September 26 in a private ceremony.

Congratulations also to Ivo DiPalma and Kevin Walker who were married on July 18 at Emmanuel Friedens Church.

Many thanks are due to Bart Bisgrove and Vern Scoville for their work in rebuilding the emergency stairs behind the church building! The stairs were destroyed last winter by the descent of a large chunk of ice. Rebuilding required excavation, masonry work and considerable carpentry! When you see Bart and Vern, be sure to thank them, warmly, for keeping our building safe, usable and up to

**Denominational and Community News**

**Call to Meeting**

Hudson-Mohawk Association of the United Church of Christ  
 Fall Meeting, October 24, 9:30 am-Lunch  
 @ First Congregational Church  
 31 E. Fulton Street  
 Gloversville, NY 12078  
 \$10/person for lunch

**The Interfaith Community of Sch’dy will hold its 2nd Annual Interfaith Friendship Celebration** - With a purpose to increase awareness toward peace and harmony in our community through understanding, this event will be held on Thursday, October 15 beginning at 6 pm at the First Reformed Church of Scotia, 224 N. Ballston Avenue (Route 50), Scotia, NY. The evening will include a buffet dinner, a silent auction, entertainment and great conversation. The cost is \$30/person. For a reservation, contact Barby Harris at 346-5779 or check out their website, [schdyinterfaith@yahoo.com](mailto:schdyinterfaith@yahoo.com).

**Sch’dy Inner City Ministry Open House** - Not sure what SICM does? Want to find out what our congregations are doing together? Then consider joining SICM at their open house starting on Tuesday, October 13 at 8:30 am, 1055 Wendell Ave. followed by stops at the Food Pantry & St. Joseph’s Place, both on Albany St., and the Sch’dy Damien Center, 615 Nott St. All are welcome. RSVP to the SICM’s office, 374-2683.

For more information on community events, check the church’s 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**



[www.facebook.com/emmanuelfriedenschurch](http://www.facebook.com/emmanuelfriedenschurch)

Emmanuel Friedens Church  
 218 Nott Terrace  
 Schenectady, NY 12307

**November At A Glance**

Stewardship Program Begins

Sunday, November 1  
 Daylight Savings Time Ends

Sunday, November 8  
 Pulpit Exchange with Emmanuel Baptist of Albany  
 Stockade-athon Race  
 Expect traffic disruptions in the AM

Saturday, November 21  
 Shared Church Retreat  
 “Faithing Up to Racism”  
 Location: First Reformed Church of Scotia

Sunday, November 22  
 Thanksgiving Sunday

Sunday, November 29  
 First Sunday of Advent

The November issue of the Envoy will be available the week of November 2. The deadline to submit articles, committee news, announcements, etc. is October 26. Thank you.

**Community News (Continued)**

**SAVE THE DATE:** Harvest for the Pantry, a dinner to raise funds for the SICM Emergency Food Pantry, will be held on Sunday, November 8 from 4-7 pm at First Reformed Church of Scotia.

\$30/person (\$25 of which is eligible for GE Matching). Tickets are available at the SICM office.

**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!*