

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 345

February 2017

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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...

Dear Friends,

I write from home in the Schenectady Stockade on a snowy winter afternoon-- the most snow we have had in two years, I think—there is something refreshing and exciting about the flying flakes and the snow drifts, with very little traffic moving.

Snow has a way of making the world fresh again, and creation gets a rest, as temperatures drop and the breezes blow. It is of course not so marvelous for those with no permanent shelter, and even as the birds outside our house ignore the flakes to get their birdseeds, they have ruffled up to stay warm.

On this wintry day, however, reflecting in the quiet, snow does not have my undivided attention! I find myself preoccupied with gratitude: gratitude for the privilege of being the pastor of a small engaged, deeply passionately caring congregation. I am filled with warm gratitude for the sanctuary that is this church, continuing faithfully despite and amid a sometimes inhospitable world.

As we worship together, learn together and serve together in the weeks ahead, know that I do not take you individually for granted, nor the lovely community that is Emmanuel Friedens Church.

As we move toward the journey of faith that is Lent, may you be blessed with an ever increasing assurance that we are not alone in our pilgrimage.

In Christ's Peace,
Peter

The Weeks Ahead in Worship

Sunday, February 19: Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
Readings: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18, Matthew 5:38-48.
Sermon: *Friends and Enemies*.
Peter JB Carman is leading worship.

Sunday, February 26: Transfiguration Sunday
Reading: Matthew 17:1-9.
Sermon: *Everything Looks Different Now*.
Peter JB Carman is leading worship.

Ash Wednesday Service @ St. Joseph's Church, 600 State Street across from Veterans Park, March 1, 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, March 5: First Sunday of Lent
We Share at the Communion Table.
Reading: Matthew 4:1-11.
Peter JB Carman is leading worship.

Sunday, March 12: Second Sunday in Lent
Guest Preacher: Rev. Ray Schellinger of the American Baptist International Ministries

**Mid-week Lenten services will be held at Emmanuel Friedens.
Dates and time to be determined.**

Christian Education

Sunday Adult Classes:

February 19: Pastor Peter will speak on the emerging Interfaith Alliance in Schenectady.

February 26: An introduction to the Lenten series, "Journey Through Lent-Elements of Christianity?" David Chancey and Jeff Fletcher will lead the discussion.

March 5: Christian practices? How we live out our faith in community, our life together. Pastor Peter will lead the discussion.

March 12: Rev. Ray Schellinger of the American Baptist International Ministries will lead the discussion. Rev. Schellinger ministers to victims of domestic violence and counsels families in crisis, and is involved with immigration issues as it relates to churches on how to embrace the immigrant communities.

March 19: What is your relationship with the Bible? Is the Bible central to your Christian beliefs?

March 26: Mystical/spiritual aspect of faith— this class will be lead by Faye Bailey.

Committee News: Community Brunch Update

The monthly meal envisioned by the Outreach and Mission Committee over 18 months ago has become an amazing success. Our guests are polite and so appreciative as they enjoy a variety of brunch items. In addition to the meal, we now have a toast station where folks can have bagels, English muffins and toast with the topping of their choice. We have been blessed to receive bagels from Breuggers Bakery. They send so many that our guests take some home and we bring the rest to the City Mission of Schenectady. This month, we will have a St. Patrick's Day theme and serve Irish Soda Bread. We have also been able to offer hot and cold cereal. Many of our guests, including the children, have become volunteers themselves. We are all getting to know one another pretty well. We hope that you will consider coming down for a bite to eat and meet our new friends!

In addition to the meal, we try to offer donations that we receive. For the winter months, we have been able to hand out coats and sweaters. We are going to hand out some hygiene items this month. We are looking for toothbrushes, small shampoo, soaps etc. If you have any of these items that you would like to pass along please leave in the office for Maria. Thank you for all of your support for this important mission.

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." -Mother Teresa Nancy Spencer and Robyn Axon

Denominational and Community News

⇒ UCC NYS Conference 32nd State Youth Event, March 3-5:, Watson Homestead, Painted Post, NY: The theme is *Realize, Relax, Reassure*. Any youth (ages 14-18) interested, check out the UCC website, uccny.org/ministries/youth-ministries/ and/or speak with Kevin DePalma, EFC Youth Minister.

⇒ Capital District Baptist Association (CABA) presents **Bridges for Churches**, a workshop lead by Mike Saccocio, Executive Director, City Mission of Schenectady. **Bridges for Churches** will help you gain a better understanding of poverty, and from that understanding develop more effective outreaches to people in poverty. It will also provide a biblical framework for applying the principles and constructs contained within the training.

When: Saturday, March 11, 2017 from 10 am-2 pm

Where: Latham Community Baptist Church, 109 Forts Ferry Road, Latham.

Registration Deadline: Friday, March 3, e-mail or call the CABA office, abcnyseast@yahoo.com, 371-6023.

Cost: \$26 (for workbook and food and beverages)

IN MEMORIAM

Thomas Heard
July 28, 1926-January 14, 2017

Former, longtime member of
Emmanuel Baptist Church
(1948-1993)

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.

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Emmanuel Friedens Church
218 Nott Terrace
Schenectady, NY 12307

March 2017 At A Glance

Wednesday, March 1

Ash Wednesday Services
@ 7 pm, St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church

Saturday, March 25

Community Brunch
10:30 –11:30 am

Mid-week Lenten services will be held at Emmanuel Friedens. Dates and time to be determined.

Winter Pool Party (?)
Date/Time to be determined

The March issue of the Envoy will be available the week of February 27, 2017. The deadline to submit articles, committee news, announcements, etc. is Friday, February 24. Thank you.

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!