

# 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 344

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#### Worship Hours

Sunday @ 10 am

#### Sunday Classes

(Sept-June)

11:15 am

#### Office Hours

9 am-3 pm M-F



#### Included in This Issue...

From the Pastor's Desk...	1-2
Sunday Worship And Meeting	2
Community News	3
February At A Glance	3
Special Offering	4

#### Inserts:

Christian Education & Youth Group News, Happenings at EFC, and Notes of Thanks

#### Calendar

Special Offering Envelope

## From the Pastor's Desk...

Dear Emmanuel Friedens friends,

Happy New Year! It is hard for me to believe it is my third January with you here in Schenectady. I am still readjusting to the weather a little, but I've noticed that when the cold breezes blow in the early morning when our dog Seneca takes me for a walk, I am greeting them with a little more gusto.

As we begin the new year, we find ourselves in times that are troubling for many. Over the course of the last several months, a growing polarization in the nation has manifested itself in increased lack of civility, and, in various incidents around the region and nation, words of hatred and even violent acts of bigotry.

I am grateful that in Schenectady, fellow religious leaders have taken the lead in reminding us that there is a better way. Rabbi Matthew Cutler, well known to many of you, as the longstanding Rabbi of Congregation Gates of Heaven, has brought together a growing group of leaders from various faiths and denominations, under the name **Schenectady Clergy Against Hate**. I am pleased to take part, along with Rev. Phil Grigsby, a member of this church and Director of Schenectady Inner City Ministry, Rev. Sara Baron of First United Methodist Church, Rev. Horace Sanders of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden, a member of this church, along with other Christian pastors, Jewish rabbis, a Muslim imam and Sikh representatives.

The group has begun to organize several events. I want to draw your attention to two both taking place at Congregation Gates of Heaven, 852 Ashmore Avenue, Schenectady. On Friday, January 20, we are invited to attend a **soup dinner and community conversation** beginning at 6 pm. The suggested donation for dinner is whatever you would pay to go out to eat, and proceeds will benefit Schenectady Inner City Ministry. **The synagogue requests an RSVP** by 1/13 at [Klaws@cgoh.org](mailto:Klaws@cgoh.org) or 374-8173.

The second event, also sponsored by Schenectady Clergy Against Hate and also to take place at the Congregation Gates of Heaven will be an interfaith **Service of Solidarity and Unity**, to take place on **Wednesday January 25 at 7 pm**. Bring

(Continued on pg. 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

warm jackets. The service will be followed by a **Candle Light March**.

At these events, and at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. service this coming Sunday afternoon, we will be given an opportunity to make a personal commitment/pledge to speak out against and respond to hatred in whatever forms it comes, and at whomsoever it is directed. The pledge concludes with the words: "I firmly believe that one person can make a difference and that no person can be an "innocent bystander" when it comes to opposing hate."

In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: **Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; Only love can do that.**

In Christ's Peace,  
Peter

## The Weeks Ahead in Worship

**Sunday, January 15:** Second Sunday after the Epiphany—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday  
Meditations be three members of the Emmanuel Friedens' Worship and Nurture Committee: Debbie Gehman, Jan Grigsby, and Jocelyn McKinney; Peter JB Carman is leading worship.

**Sunday, January 22:** Third Sunday after the Epiphany  
Readings: Matthew 4:12-23, Psalm: 27:1, 4-9.  
Sermon: *The Beginnings of the Jesus Movement*.  
Peter JB Carman is leading worship.

**Sunday, January 29:** Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
Readings: Micah 6: 1-8, Matthew 5: 1-12; Sermon: *Wrestling with Radical Christianity*  
Peter JB Carman is leading worship.

**Sunday, February 5:** Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany  
We Share at the Communion Table.  
Guest preacher: Rev. Jerrod Hugnot, Associate Executive Minister, American Baptist Churches of NYS

## Annual Business Meeting

Sunday, January 29, 2017

Following Worship

Please make sure that you attend this meeting as we vote on the 2017 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 Wednesday, January 18.

Thank you.



**Community News**



**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, Sunday, January 15 @ 2:30 pm (Sponsored by the Schenectady County Human Rights-Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition))**

This year represents the 30th Anniversary of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration. With the theme, "Empower. Educate. Embrace.", this year's celebration will take place Sunday, January 15 at Proctors GE Theater (part of Proctor's Theatre). This year's program will feature keynote speaker, Dr. Steve Perry, national syndicated speaker, author and educator. Parking is available behind Proctor's Theatre and on the surrounding streets. Everyone is invited to attend and to participate in this celebration. The program begins at 2:30 pm.

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

Tuesday, January 17, 2016, 6:30 pm Dinner, 7:30 pm Program, held at the Dominican Retreat and Conference Center, 1945 Union Street, Schenectady, NY 12309

Program Description: "**The Armenian Perspective and Practice of the Christian Faith.**" Father Doudoukjian is Parish Priest of the St. Peter Armenian Church in Watervliet. He has years of leadership with the Nersess Armenian Seminary/St. Vladimir's Seminary with a special emphasis on working with youth and vocations. He has been Parish Priest at St. Peter Church since 2010.

Dinner is \$15 payable at the door. Program only is free. Reservations to the IFC office, schdyinterfaith@yahoo.com or 370-2150.

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Conversation and Soup Dinner**

When: Friday, January 20, 2017

Where/Time: Congregation Gates of Heaven, 852 Ashmore Avenue, Schdy.

@ 6 pm for soup dinner (12 hearty soups, crusty bread and dessert); @7 pm Program: *Conversation on Discrimination, Bigotry & Hatred in Our Community (continued next column)*

A frank and open conversation with area clergy and community leaders on this very complex and prevalent problem in our communities. 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 to [klaws@cgoh.org](mailto:klaws@cgoh.org) or call 374-8173.

**Service of Solidarity and Unity – An Interfaith Community Worship Service & Candlelight March**

When: Wednesday, January 25 @ 7 pm

Where: Congregation Gates of Heaven, 852 Ashmore Avenue, Schdy.

**Both events are sponsored by The Schenectady Area Clergy Against Hate**

**February 2017 At A Glance**

Monday, February 20  
Church Office is Closed  
President's Day Holiday

Saturday, February 25  
Community Brunch  
10:30 –11:30 am

The February issue of the Envoy will be available the week of February 6, 2017. The deadline to submit articles, committee news, announcements, etc. is Friday, February 3, 2017. Thank you.

Emmanuel Friedens Church  
218 Nott Terrace  
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**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).

For over 100 years, the **Christmas Fund of the United Church of Christ** has helped clergy and lay employees who are facing challenging financial situations. Across the US, congregations and individuals give generously so that the Pension Boards can continue this ministry of direct support. It is no surprise that people run into difficult situations. It is also no surprise that the wider church family has found a way to be there and care for those who have faithfully served God's mission.

The **Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering of the ABC** goes back to the mid-1930s, when American Baptist congregations received a Communion Fellowship Offering on the first Sunday of each month to support retired ministers, missionaries, their widowed spouses and elderly clergy within their churches. In 1977, the ABC-USA launched the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering to continue this appreciation annually, and in some cases to provide emergency support.

Following God's call does not come without certain sacrifices. Retired ministers, missionaries and their spouses often have limited options to plan adequately for the future. 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.

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)

**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!*