

# 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:

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## Interim Pastor

Rev. Dr. Rodney W. Kennedy

## Minister of Music

Michael P. Harrison  
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## Worship Hours

Sunday @ 10 am

## Sunday Classes

(Sept-June)

11:15 am

## Office Hours

9:30 am-3:30 pm M-F



Issue 402

May 2022

## From the Pastor

The gospel of Matthew has a scene that indicates what matters to Jesus. Here are the questions that Jesus raises for people desiring to be part of the kingdom of God:

- Did you feed the hungry?
- Did you give water to the thirsty?
- Did you welcome strangers?
- Did you clothe the naked?
- Did you visit and care for the sick?
- Did you visit the prisoners?

If the church ordered our priorities according to the matters that mattered to Jesus, what would our board and committee structure look like? Should we take another look at what Jesus insists are the priorities of his movement? Would more people be open to participating in a church that concentrated on service? There are many questions to consider here, but I believe we are at a place where we need to decide if we will increase our mission to the community in as many creative ways as possible.

Let's take another look at Jesus' words: "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." To be a Christian is not to believe a bunch of doctrines but to act differently toward those in need, especially "the least of these." We are in danger of confusing the kingdom of God with the benefits of the kingdom. In other words, we seem concerned about what's in it for us rather than in what we can do for others. "If anyone repents, if anyone turns around to follow Jesus in his new way of life, this will do something for the aimlessness of his life. It will do something for his loneliness by giving him fellowship. It will do something for his anxiety and guilt by giving him a good conscience .... It will do something for his intellectual confusion by giving him doctrinal meat to digest, a heritage to appreciate, and conscience about telling it all as it is....

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It will do something for his moral weakness by giving him the focus for wholesome self-discipline, it will keep him from immorality, and get him to work on time.... But all this is not the gospel" (John Howard Yoder, Original Revolution, 31 – 32).

The gospel is the proclamation of a new age begun through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel has a material, physical, fleshly, bodily form that is required to be always ready to show hospitality to strangers, to provide for the physical needs of the least of these. Whatever else we do in the years ahead, I believe it is imperative that we help give a new impetus, a new birth even, to the social gospel of the great New York theologian, Walter Rauschenbusch. What better place for such a revival of the social gospel to occur than at Emmanuel Friedens Federated Church? Blessings, Rod

## Sunday Worship

(Live in-person, Facebook Live and Zoom)

Rev. Dr. Rodney Kennedy will  
lead worship and preach.

**Sunday, May 1:** Third Sunday of Easter  
Communion Sunday

Readings: Acts 9:1-6, John 21:1-19

Sermon: "True Repentance"

**Sunday, May 8:** Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Mother's Day, Baptismal Service

Readings: Psalm 23, John 10:22-30

Sermon: "The Joys of Tending to the Ordinary"

**Sunday, May 15:** Fifth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 11: 1-18, John 13:31-35

Sermon: "What's Love Got to Do with It?"

**Sunday, May 22:** Sixth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 16: 9-15, John 5:1-9

Sermon: "Do We Have A Vision?"

**Sunday, May 29:** Ascension Sunday (Seventh  
Sunday of Easter)

Readings: Acts: 1:1-11, Luke 24:44-53

Sermon: "I believe in one, holy, catholic, apostolic  
church"

**Sunday, June 5**  
Pentecost Sunday  
Children's Sunday

## Sermons

Dr. Kennedy's sermons from the past Sunday will be sent out via mail and e-mail during the week, as well as being posted on the church's website under "Worship".



**Our Welcoming, Open and Affirming Ministry:** Every year our church proudly gives Dignity For All \$500 Scholarships to area graduating high school seniors who have helped make their high schools a safer space for LGBTQ+ students. We do anticipate offering six such scholarships for the school year. Thanks for your ongoing support of this important act encouraging welcome, affirmation and openness, and gratitude for the leadership of youth throughout Schenectady County in advocating for safety, respect and inclusion for all, regardless of orientation or gender identity.

A few volunteers are needed to present the church's award to recipients at their **in-person** awards ceremony. You do not have to stay for the entire ceremony as the community presenters are usually placed at the beginning of the program. Please give the office a call if you would like to volunteer.



**Graduate News:** We would like to recognize and congratulate those members and friends of Emmanuel Friedens Church, who are graduating from high school, college, graduate school, etc. this school year. Please send the news of your graduate, a relative, or a friend to the church office.



**Phil Grigsby Memorial CROP Hunger Walk 2022:** Even though May 1 has passed, you can still donate to the CROP Walk in two ways:

- To donate using the website, follow these steps: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022>  
In the Search box on the top right, type in Emmanuel Friedens Church- you do not have to login. Then you can donate or scroll down and donate to support our new EFC CROP team member, Heather Charboneau. If you use this option, make sure you donate under Emmanuel Friedens or Heather.
- Alternatively, you can **write a check payable to CWS/CROP** and send it to the church office or put it into the collection plate on Sunday. If donating by cash, please make sure you identify that the money is for the CROP Walk. Faye Bailey will make sure the funds get to SiCM.

To date, Emmanuel Friedens has raised \$ 1,112 in donations. Thank you everyone!  
Donations will be accepted through May 31.

Emmanuel Friedens Church  
218 Nott Terrace  
Schenectady, NY 12307

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, marital 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)

Sunday Worship remains available via Facebook Live on the Church's Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/Emmanuel-Friedens-Church-122934277889274/>) and by Zoom, with a Zoom link and passcode being sent to the congregation each week (via the Sunday bulletin).

And for video recordings of all worship services, a link is available

#### 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;*