

THE ENVOY

A Newsletter of Emmanuel Friedens Church
American Baptist and United Church of Christ Congregation
218 Nott Terrace, Schenectady, NY 12307

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

Guest Musician
Gareth Griffiths

Worship Hours
Sunday @ 10 am

Sunday Classes
(Sept-June)
11:15 am

Office Hours
9:30 am-3:30 pm M-F
9:30 am-1:30 pm M-F
(SUMMER HOURS)



Included in This Issue...

- From the Moderator** 1
- Special Offering** 2
- In Memoriam** 3
- Call to Meeting** 3

Insert:
Brunch News
Community News
April Calendar
Special offering envelopes

Issue 422

April 2024

From the Moderator

“For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.” - Song of Solomon 2:11-12

Spring is a time of transformation, a reminder that change and growth are beautiful and natural parts of life. And just as flowers bloom, we can create new beginnings because there is endless potential in each of us. Church growth is not just about numbers; it's also about nurturing the souls of those who walk through our doors, and creating a space filled with love, compassion, and understanding, where all feel valued and accepted. It's about reaching out to those in need, something we do exceptionally well at Emmanuel Friedens, and about nurturing the gifts and talents of each member, empowering them to share. As we head into this new season, may we be guided by faith, hope, and love, and remember to embrace growth, and the endless possibilities that lie ahead.

“This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”
Psalm 118:24

Jocelyn McKinney



Special Offering

America for Christ/Neighbors in Need

We will receive special offerings throughout April to support our wider church families' important ministries of love and justice throughout the US and Puerto Rico. We invite you to support either **America for Christ** (American Baptist Churches) or **Neighbors in Need** (The United Church of Christ).

The America for Christ (AFC) Offering 2024 campaign is **Grace Upon Grace**, inspired by Lamentations 3:22-23 which reads — "Because of God's great love we are not consumed, for God's compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." 100% of the donations received through this offering goes to support the ministries of the American Baptist Home Mission Society (ABHMS). Thanks to a history of generous donations to the AFC Offering, the ABHMS has provided financial support to American Baptist churches and affiliated organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico year to year. Some examples of the positive impact your dollars have had on needy communities are: 1. Funding youth education and enrichment programs as well as senior services that delivered lunches, health education and socialization opportunities, and groceries in bulk through a food pantry, among other things, to communities in and around Kansas City, Kansas; 2. Funding Rainbow Acres, a faith-based residential community with a wide range of programs for developmentally disabled adults from more than 15 states and representing an array of faith backgrounds including American Baptists. The ABHMS is hoping to raise \$1.5 million to support American Baptist missions and ministries through the Baptist churches and community partners across the US and Puerto Rico.

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special annual mission offering of the United Church of Christ (UCC) that support ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States." The NIN "**Behold!**" theme continues. "God saw everything that God made and behold, it was very good" (Genesis1:31) As you recall, two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). This year's special focus is on environmental justice. "We must be better stewards of our planet!"

Both offerings support the important ministries across the US, in our two respective denominational families. Appropriate envelopes are provided in your newsletter, or may be picked up in church, or sent to you from the church office when requested. And you can also make an online donation on the church's website (http://emmanuelfriedens.org/Give_Online/). Please consider a generous gift! Thank you.

For more information, check out the following websites:
<https://abhms.org> and <https://www.ucc.org/neighbors-in-need-special-mission-offering/>

Brunch News

The March 30th Easter Brunch was a huge success! We served a full Easter dinner, complete with decorated hard boiled eggs and candy. The tables looked very festive, decorated with Easter items. Our friend Martin did a great job as our Easter bunny entertaining the kids and handing out candy. Hats off to all of our volunteers who served, cooked and managed our clothing room. We had 90 plus guests and served at least 130 meals with our to-go service. Thank you to all who donated food items for the brunch. Nancy Spencer

And a big thank you to Nancy Spencer for all her hard work to make EFC's community brunch an enjoyable experience for our community members.



Sandy, the Easter Bunny's elf-greeting and giving out menus.



A hug from the Easter Bunny !

Community News



⇒ **CROP Hunger Walk: Registration and Information:** We are five weeks away from the annual Schenectady Community Ministries (SiCM) CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, May 5. The Walk departs from Trinity Community Center on Curry Road in Rotterdam. Please see Sandra George for more details and to sign up to be a Walker or sponsor a Walker. You may call or text Sandy at 518-366-4614 or e-mail sandrageorge518@gmail.com to express interest or to find out more information.

(continued on back)

Community News (continued)

The CROP Hunger Walk table will be set up in the chapel hallway from April 7-May 5 to sign-up as an EFC Team Walker or sponsor.

If you want to sign up to be a Walker, Sandy George will give you an envelope for the contributions you receive in person. You can also sign up on the Phil Grigsby Memorial CROP Hunger Walk web page by clicking the link below. Sign in (you can use your Facebook or Google or e-mail account) then search for our team, Emmanuel Friedens Church, and become a team member. The web site gives you a way you can send messages to your friends, asking them to support you so they can make their donation on-line). Use this link to donate to this important cause or to join our team: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/event/schenectadyny>

What is the CROP Hunger Walk?

Thank you to last year's CROP Hunger Walkers. We hope you will gather together once again for this community-led interfaith event to end hunger locally AND around the world. Please ask your friends to join us to be a walker or a sponsor. We may be the EFC Team Walkers, but Everyone is welcome to join the team!

Your participation impacts individuals and families in more than 35 countries. In many developing nations, people could walk up to six miles a day to get food and water and a healthy diet. We walk to show solidarity and to bring awareness while raising funds for permanent change.

From its birth in 1969, the Church World Service (CWS) CROP Hunger Walk is the only nationwide Walk that addresses hunger both locally and globally. It is a Walk that brings Hope and demonstrates Christian Love in a concrete way. Let us join with other churches in the community for a good cause, some exercise and fun. Sandy George

⇒ **Health Fair, Saturday, April 13, from 10 AM - 4 PM**
@ First United Methodist Church in downtown Schenectady

The Collaboratory of Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and First United Methodist Church of Schenectady will hold a Health Fair on Saturday, April 13, from 10 am—4 pm at First United Methodist Church in downtown Schenectady. Approximately 25 vendors*will be present to provide information on accessing health insurance, elder care, child care, treatment and prevention of some illnesses and much more. This special event is open to the public, free of charge and will include activities and games for children, and screenings for blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, and bone density. Come to find local resources and learn more about staying healthy and happy! For more information, call 518-487-4117 or visit the church's website: <http://www.fumcschenectady.org> or Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/fumcschenectady>.

*Nancy Spencer will be one of the vendors at the Fair. She will be promoting our church and all the good things that the church does. If you would like to volunteer to work with Nancy for the day, contact her at 518 817-1956.

In Memoriam

Vernon B. Scoville
May 21, 1929-March 19, 2024
Longtime member of Emmanuel Baptist Church

It was with great sadness that we shared the news of the passing on March 19, 2024 of Vernon 'Vern' Scoville. Vern was residing at the Kingsway Arms Nursing Center at the time of his death. He was 94 years old.

Vern was a very, active long time member of the church. We remember his work as Treasurer when he moved the church finances into the computer age and his being voted a Honorary Lifetime Trustee. He put in many hours of work keeping the church building and grounds in good order. And we remember him well for his thoughtful contributions during Adult Sunday School and his enjoyment in our social gatherings. A life well lived!

Vern's family would like to have his memorial service on Tuesday, May 21, which would have been Vern's 95th birthday. A reception will follow.

Call To Meeting
 Spring Business Meeting
 Next Sunday, April 14 @ 11:15 am
 (following worship)
 In-person and Zoom connection

The meeting will be held in the Board Room; a lite lunch will be offered.
 The Zoom connection is the same as used for Sunday worship.

Emmanuel Friedens Church
 218 Nott Terrace
 Schenectady, NY 12307

Remember: April 8 is the total solar eclipse (partial in our area). a partial eclipse is expected to begin at 2:12 p.m., with totality beginning at 3:24 p.m., and maximum eclipse at 3:26 p.m. It ends at 4:36 pm.

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/890-; \]\](https://www.facebook.com/890-;]\)

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!*