

# THE ENVOY

Contact Us:  
(518) 374-4114  
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Director of Music  
Dianna Parisi

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)



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A Newsletter of Emmanuel Friedens Church  
American Baptist and United Church of Christ Congregation  
218 Nott Terrace, Schenectady, NY 12307  
Rev. Dr. Kathryn Stenta, Pastor

Issue 441

January 2026

## From the Pastor

Lost in Epiphany by Pastor Katy Stenta

Christmas is 12 days  
Because it is supposed to be an entire season  
Enough time  
to rest  
refresh  
reflect

It was never supposed to be all stuffed into one day.

There was supposed to be  
enough time  
for journeys  
getting lost  
finding our way again

and then  
eventually  
room for  
an epiphany.

Christmas is  
a space  
a season  
a journey  
a wandering

a pondering,  
a pondering,

----so if you haven't done all of the Christmas things

Or if everything didn't go perfectly

Remember you are in good  
wizardly  
some would even say  
wise  
company.

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## Upcoming Worship

(Live in –person, Zoom link or online) Rev. Dr. Katy Stenta will lead worship and preach.

**January 11:** Baptism of the Lord (First Sunday after the Epiphany)

Readings: John 1:19-34, Psalm 32:1-2

Hymn sing

**January 18:** Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Readings: John 2:1-11, Psalm 104:14-16

Theme: The Wedding at Cana

**January 25:** Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Readings: John 4:1-42, Psalm 40:1-5

Theme: The Woman at the Well

**February 1:** Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Readings: John 4:46-54, Psalm 42:1-3

Theme: Healing Stories

**February 8:** Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Readings: John 2:13-25 Psalm 17:1-2

Theme: Jesus Cleanses the Temple

**February 15:** Transfiguration Sunday

Readings: John 9:1-41, Psalm 27:1-4

Theme: The Man Born Blind

**February 18:** Ash Wednesday

Beginning of the Lenten season

Worship service to be announced



Our Epiphany Stars

## IN MEMORIAM

John E. Saville

May 12, 1924-December 16, 2025

Longtime Member of Emmanuel Friedens Church

The Memorial Service for John Saville was held on Monday, January 5 at our church. Burial will take place in April. If you would like to send expressions of sympathy to Faye Saville and family, please contact the office for the address.

## MUSIC NOTES



Many thanks to our EFC Choir, as they blessed us with their beautiful voices during Advent. We also welcomed Carla Fisk and Nakia Beverly-Brown, guest vocalists on December 21 and Christmas Eve. O Holy Night was definitely one of my favorites!

### **EFC CHOIR REHEARSAL: Sunday mornings at 9am - Do you like to sing? Please join us!**

*“Psychologists have long marveled at how people who sing together can develop a powerful sense of social cohesion, with even among the most reluctant of vocalists becoming united in song. Research has shown that complete strangers can forge unusually close bonds after singing together for an hour.” ~David Cox, BBC*

Are you thinking about joining the choir, but not sure what it's all about? Do you play an instrument, and would like to share your gifts with the congregation? Please feel free to email me: [pianowithdianna@gmail.com](mailto:pianowithdianna@gmail.com), or simply chat with me after worship!

Blessings,  
Dianna Parisi  
Director of Music

“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,  
burst into jubilant song with music.” (NIV)



*“Members of the EFC Choir gathered on December 8 to celebrate the Christmas Season with some good food, great company and carol singing.”*

## Thank You

- Our Giving During the Advent Season

We would like to thank everyone who purchased gifts for our Giving Tree. The toys and clothes were brought down to the Schenectady City Mission for their Christmas Toy Store, where families could come in and get a gift for their child. The staff at the Mission were very appreciative of the church's generosity.

And thank you to those who decorated our Mitten Tree. Items such as hats, mittens, socks, etc. and cash donations will be given to **Refugee & Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus (RISSE)**.

## Caretaking Bags

During our prayer service on December 28, the congregation made Caretaking bags for those in need. They are located in the office.



## Special Offering for January

### January Offering to Support Retired Ministers, Missionaries, and Support Staff

Throughout the month of January, Emmanuel Friedens Church participates in 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).

Our retired missionaries and ministers, and lay church employees deserve ongoing support in retirement. The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering ("Let all that you do be done in love" - 1 Cor 16:14) and the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross ("When they saw the star, they were filled with joy." —Matthew 2:10) both offer channels to express our gratitude for the lifetimes of service so many pastors, relief and development workers, and educators have offered. They also provide emergency funds that are shared with retired church workers and their families in times of challenge or crisis.

### Ways of Donating:

- ⇒ Through envelopes which are located at the back of the church
- ⇒ Through on-line donation on the church's website (<http://emmanuelfriedens.org/GiveOnline/>)
- ⇒ Through the ABC and UCC websites (see below)

[www.abc-usa.org/rmmo](http://www.abc-usa.org/rmmo) (ABC) and [www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/christmas-fund/](http://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/christmas-fund/)

Thank you for giving generously!

Emmanuel Friedens Church  
218 Nott Terrace  
Schenectady, NY 12307

## Reminder-Annual Business Meeting Announcement

### Annual Business Meeting

Sunday, January 25, 2026  
following worship in the Board Room;  
we urge you to attend this meeting  
(in-person or via Zoom) as we vote for the  
2026 church budget, and elect officers and  
committee members.

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)

Reports\*, which should be included into the Annual Meeting booklet, are to be sent to the church office by **Tuesday, January 20, 2026 (no later than January 22.)** \*Federated Church Council, Outreach/Mission (Community Brunch), Church Clerk, Trustees, Financial Secretary, Summary of Managed Funds (EBC), Financial Report for Friedens, Church-Staff Relations, Stewardship, Worship, and any other reports that should be included. **If you do not plan on submitting a report, please notify the 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!***