

THE ENVOY

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

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

**Director of Music
(Music Minister)**
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)



Included in This Issue...

From the Pastor	1-2
Upcoming Worship	3
Church Happenings/ Recent Events	3-6
Music Notes	6
Community News	7
Saying Good-bye	back page

Insert:
May Calendar

Issue 445

May 2026

From the Pastor

God
Spring
is
a
Word



A
season

a
coil
About
to leap

Spring
Is tulips
but only
for a moment

Promises
waiting
to fill

Spring is
waiting
for the
Holy Spirit

Of Pentecost



The winds of change
The rains of not yet summer
The temperatures going too high
and then too low to be comfortable

Spring is waiting
waiting for everything to be
just right
For growth to happen

Walk with us
this spring
We Pray

From the Pastor (continued)

Dear Emmanuel Friedens,

It feels like Easter was just yesterday and here we are on the way to Pentecost—we will be taking a little journey with Paul’s ministry. I always find it interesting that Paul who didn’t follow the bulk of Jesus’ en fleshed time on earth, then spends time working out the beginnings of Christianity, and then is included in the Bible. I am sure that our forefathers and foremothers found the advice about squabbles, inclusion, and leadership very helpful and that is some of why all of these stories and letters are in the Bible. I find it amazing how much humans are still humans, and thus these texts are still helpful. The fact that human beings want to do things the right way so much, that we need to order one another about it rings very true in an era where Christianity is facing a reckoning between being a high control or even a state mandated religion, versus one where it lets people be informed by their faith of what to do and how to do it. The very fact that Paul continuously writes his letter from jails shows us that Christianity is not really about legality, but instead is about doing what is right irregardless of the law.

Christianity is in a nebulous time again right now. Success is not certain, nor is which way to turn and follow. The very definition of what success is probably has changed—it probably no longer means full pews and pocketbooks, but instead growing spiritually and helping the community in meaningful ways. It’s honoring who we are as a congregation, using our gifts and talents in connected ways. It means change, which is very hard work for human beings to do. However, I fully believe that the Holy Spirit has already planted seeds in Emmanuel Friedens to grow—some of which we might not even be aware of yet. These seeds are meant to be watched for, and tended and nurtured both within the church and in Schenectady and beyond. I see those seeds in all that we have done already: the meals on Second Sundays, the Oh! Holy Hops gatherings, the seasonal Sunday School, the children’s activities, the choir, the hard work of the committees and Council, the Brunch, the School of Wonder and Mystery, the prayer and care for one another and the community, and of course a million other things that I haven’t named. God is working with Emmanuel Friedens.

Pastor Katy Stenta

Upcoming Worship

May 3: Fifth Sunday of Easter- Communion

Readings: John 1:16-18, Acts 17: 16-31

May 10: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Philippians 1:1-18, Luke 46-48

Fellowship Meal following the worship service.

May 17: Seventh Sunday of Easter

Guest Minister: Rev. Barbara VanOlpen,

UCC, Associate Conference Minister for Clergy and Congregations



May 24: Pentecost Sunday

Welcoming, Open and Affirming Sunday

Readings: Acts 2:1-21, Philippians 4:4-7

May 31: Trinity Sunday

Guest Minister, Pastor Katy will be on vacation

June 7: PRIDE Sunday

Church Happenings/Recent Events

SAVE THE DATE

Church Trivia Night, Tuesday, May 19

starting at 6 pm

Spread the word, and gather your family /friends

Test your knowledge on questions of the Bible, religion, pop culture, and more.

Church Happenings/Recent Events

Brunch Update: With the departure of Nancy and Chris Spencer headed to Rhode Island, we are re-envisioning the community brunch. We will be doing the brunch in May (5/30) with hamburgers and hot dogs, salads, cookies, etc. If you can volunteer to make any salads or cookies or come in person to help serve, it would be greatly appreciated. I will also be convening a meeting to discuss the brunch and how we wish to proceed with it going forward. I will make this meeting public to everyone but if you have any interest or ideas, please reach out to me 518-694-1521 or debra.lent7983@gmail.com

Deb Lent

Federated Council Moderator



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 LGBTQI+ students.

We do anticipate offering six such scholarships for the school year. We thank the members/friends of Emmanuel Friedens 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.

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

High School

Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake

*Mohonasen High School

Niskayuna High School

*Schalmont High School

*Schenectady High School

Scotia-Glenville High School

Date of Award Ceremony

No recipient this year

?

Thursday, June 4 @ 6:30 pm

Thursday, June 4 @ 6 pm

?

Friday, June 5 @ 8 am

* As of April 30, the high school has not chosen a recipient.

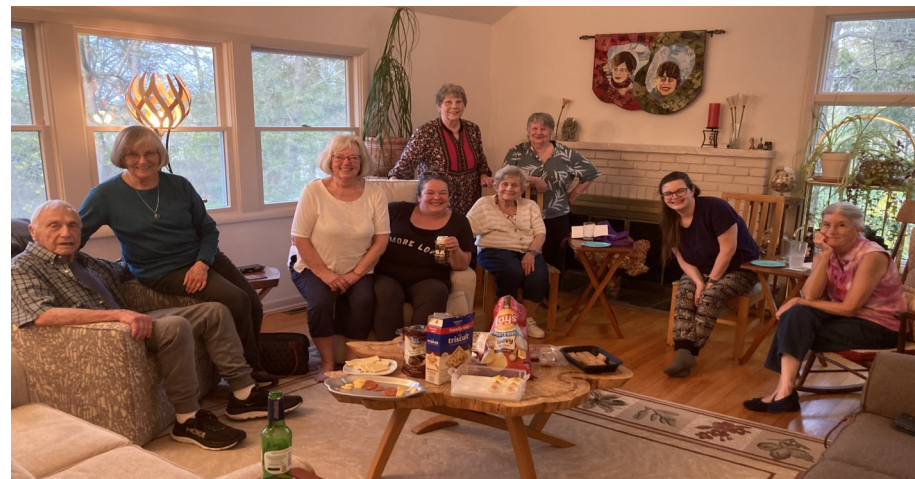
Church Happenings/Recent Events

From the EFC Federated Church Council:

We have decided to create a sensory room in our building but in order to **accomplish** that we need to clear out some rooms. At this time, we are looking to clear out what is currently the Library. Please feel free to help yourself to any of the books in there. We will also be looking into where we can donate whatever is left over. The Council would love to hear from **you in regards to any ideas you have** or would like to contribute.

Please feel free to contact me at 518-694-1521 or please feel free to come to a Council Meeting, ☺ we meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 630 pm.

Deb Lent
Moderator



Oh! Holy Hops gathering on Thursday, April 16 at the home of Debbie Gehman

New Breath Spirituality Center's Spring Retreat at Camp Fowler in the beautiful Adirondacks, the weekend of April 24-26. The theme was "Finding God in Wild Places. - An introduction to eco-spirituality and an invitation to discover the Divine in the natural world. Pastor Katy, Faye Bailey, and Sharon Carter attended the retreat.



Church Happenings/Recent Events



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.

Music Notes



On Easter Sunday, the kids blessed us with their gifts of enthusiasm and music! They sang "Jesus Loves Me" so beautifully, with the congregation following their lead. Then they closed the service with "It's a Happy Day (Jesus is Alive)" song by Little Praise Party and Yancy, arrangement used by Kids Ablaze. It was an absolutely glorious way to end a wonderful service!

Community News

Schenectady Pride Annual Festival, Saturday, June 6 (Rain or Shine)

To be held on Saturday, June 6 from 2 –5 pm at Gateway Plaza (12 State Street) where the Rainbow Pride Arches are next to SUNY Schenectady. Live entertainment, food, drink and vendors return along with local non-profits and other friends. This year, Emmanuel Friedens will again participate in and sponsor a scholarship level for this event. We will also have a table –so come down and enjoy the festivities. <https://schenectadypride.capitalpridecenter.org/>

Community News

Albany Gay Men’s Chorus

Our church will host a spring concert by the Albany Gay Men’s Chorus—**Stand Up and Sing Out** on Sunday, June 7 at 3 pm. Tickets are on sale: <https://tickets.chorusconnection.com/agmc/events/1772>



Capital Pride Parade and Festival, Sunday, June 14 in Albany (Rain or Shine)

The Capital District Gay Pride Parade and Festival will be held on Sunday, June 14 in Albany’s Washington Park. The parade will step off at 12 pm. For more information about the parade and festival, check out the website: www.518capitalpride.com.

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Saying Good-bye to a Longtime Friend and Member

Nancy Spencer, is leaving our church family. Nancy, and husband Chris, are selling their Schenectady home and if all goes well, will be purchasing a bed and breakfast in Bristol, RI. Chris has already left for his new job.

Nancy has always been an active member in the church, in charge of rummage sales, advisor to the youth group, and for the last several years has helped to build upon and maintain the community brunch program and clothing rooms. Many nights, you would find Nancy downstairs folding clothes, getting the clothing rooms in good order. She always gathered many items for the clothing room from friends at work (Albany Med), and she always found volunteers to help on brunch Saturdays- church member, friends, and family members (brother Jimmy and his wife Diane).

Nancy’s family (grandparents, parents) were members of Friedens United Church of Christ. Nancy’s children, Mary and Margaret were baptized at Emmanuel Friedens, and Nancy and Chris were married here.

Nancy, we wish you and Chris happiness and success as you begin a new adventure. You will be missed. Please keep in touch and thank you.

Love, Your Church Family

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

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!***