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Director of Music
Diana Parisi

Worship Hours
Sunday @ 10 am

Sunday Classes
(Sept-June)
11:15 am

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



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Insert
November Calendar

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

Issue 439

November 2025

From the Pastor

Prayer at the Grocery Checkout

“As..Grocery prices have gone from—I’m worried To Good Lord..”

God,
How many prayers
do you get at the grocery checkout Line?

I remember how many I gave to you
when we scanned the credit cards
that one of them would not bounce

Two kids, then three, in the card
Aware that people around me were
thinking judgmental things

Or back when WIC coupons were paper
Ostentatious, Obvious
Burdensome and Slow
And I prayed I picked all the right items
So I wouldn't hold up the people behind me
While the babies fussed

And everyone judged how many cookies
and healthy and whatever expensive foods
I bought that week.

These days my prayers, I admit,
are less desperate,
But I pray a little prayer
because every single week
the grocery bill goes up



From the Pastor (continued)

And I feel the panic in my gut
the awareness of days past (PTSD, yes?)
when I would gather up the kids
cereal and yogurt and milk
Putting every drop back when they finished
Loathe to waste a drop,
because we could not afford it

Jesus
You and the Widow know
that you can't budget your way out of poverty
Only money can help

God, I'm saying a prayer
For all of us who are stressed
Or holding our breath
Or trying not to cry in the checkout line

“Feed my Sheep” You said

“Feed my Sheep” is our prayer in the checkout line.
Feed us, we pray.
Amen.

Dear Emmanuel Friedens,

We have had a good fall so far—the choir has started off well with a good number people joining, and some beautiful guest musicians joining us already! The Halloween party was a resounding success, with many guests from the community dropping in for the fun. We look forward to the Albany Gay Men’s Chorus coming to worship on November 23 and their matinee concert on December 7 at 3 pm—and hope people are spreading the word for both! Additionally our Brunch continues to go on strong with people enjoying food from the kitchen, despite the lights, sink and more not cooperating. The facilities team is working on a way to get some of that into order.

As we enter the Season of Thanksgiving and Giving, it is becoming exceedingly poignant what with some of us experiencing greater needs than others at this time. With SNAP benefits in danger, and the statics being that one in eight people need some kind supplemental nutritional assistance in order to make ends meet. We see it here, of course, with the brunch, and clothing and toiletry assistance we provide. Additionally, the RISSE follow-up meeting was well attended where we discussed strategies for helping our neighbors including sharing information on basic rights to local jobs and organizations, ordering the red cards (which we

have to do), collecting helpful items for neighbors in need, fundraising and more. The ICE watch website is a good way to help at wehaverights.com as well as capital region Sanctuary coalition @518crsc for local rapid response information. Many church members talked about how they were already working to share information locally.

Plans for advent are underway. We will be decorating the sanctuary on December 6 at 9:30 am, and Hanging of the Greens on December 7. The children will also be giving a special performance that day, and are invited to read scripture.

We are knee-deep in our stewardship campaign with thoughtful questions about what our personal connection is with God and the community, so that we can pray about what our gift to the church might be. Contrary to popular belief, stewardship is not just about what the church needs, or even about liking what the church is doing. Instead, it is about your deep and faithful commitment and relationship to God. It is believing that God is bigger than what is going on here and now, and that giving back to God is a sign of our trust in the Divine work God has for us. If you can step up what you are giving, even by a little bit, I believe that God can do good things with that trust. I have seen it countless times in so many churches.

Finally, I sort of want to apologize for the depressing prayer, but will not. I, a white woman with an ivy league degree, did wait in the line worried about governmental help. I am not the person people picture needing help, but I did, and it helped my family through. I have trusted in God so many times, in my time after college, in my move up to Albany, in my times between jobs. I fully know that the communities we build are there to help in times of need, and are necessary, because we cannot do it alone and those who say they are doing it alone, do not understand that God built us to be herd animals—we are sheep of the Shepherd. During times like these, it is lovely to see how we are coming together to help one another. As we enter into seasons of thanksgiving and giving, I am prayerful about the seeds we are planting and growing together. The theme for Advent is about God as a Gardener who is tending the ground and planting the garden for us. I look forward to growing it together.

In Christ’s Peace,
Pastor Katy

Upcoming Worship

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

November 9: Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost
Readings: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 51:10-14
Sermon: *Blessed to Be a Blessing: God Calls David From His Heart*

Week 5: Preparing for Giving Sunday

- What is God asking me to give joyfully and faithfully this year?
- How does my pledge reflect both my resources and my heart?

What spiritual growth do I hope to experience through my act of giving?

A Fellowship meal will be served following worship.

November 16: Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost-Taize Worship
Readings: Amos 1:1-2, 5:14-15. 21-24; John 7:37-38
Sermon: *Blessed to Be a Blessing: Justice Will Roll Down*

Week 6: Joyful Surrender

- How do I experience joy when I release what I have back to God?
- What fears or hesitations about giving can I place into God’s hands?

How might surrendering to generosity deepen my trust in God’s provision?

November 23: Dedication Sunday (Giving Sunday) -Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Welcoming, Open and Affirming Candle lighting
Readings: Psalm 130:5-8, Ezekiel 37:1-14
Sermon: *Can These Bones Live?*

Week 7: Living Abundantly

- Where do I see God’s abundance in my life right now?
- How does practicing generosity shape the way I see the world around me?
- How can I live each day as if my life itself is a gift I’m called to share?

Special guests: Albany Gay Men’s Chorus

November 30: First Sunday in Advent-We Light the Candle of Hope
Readings: Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122
Sermon: *God the Gardener: Planting the Seed of Hope*

December 7: Second Sunday of Advent-We Light the Candle of Peace
Hanging of the Greens, Communion Sunday
Readings: Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122
Sermon: *God the Gardener: The Seedlings of Peace*

December 14: Third Sunday of Advent– We Light the Candle of Joy
Readings: Isaiah 35:1-10, James 5:7-10
Sermon: *God the Gardener: The Blossoms of Joy*
A Fellowship meal will be served following worship.

Looking Ahead to the Advent Season

The First Sunday of Advent is November 30
Theme: God the Gardener

Church Decorating: We will be decorating the building on Saturday, December 6 starting at 9:30 am. Please consider volunteering your time. It is always a good time!

Sunday Morning Worship
Worship each Sunday will include our usual customs of lighting of Advent Candles (with the children lighting the candles) and the Hanging of the Greens (December 7).

Sunday Fellowship Meal: Following worship on December 14

Giving During the Season

- Our Giving Tree: You are invited to take a gift tag (for children requests) from the tree starting Sunday, November 16 through Sunday, November 30. The unwrapped gifts must be returned by Sunday, December 7 so that they may be placed underneath the tree, and later distributed to the community (City Mission of Schenectady).
- The Winter Clothing Tree: A second tree, which will be located at the back of the sanctuary, will be up and ready for donations of new mittens/gloves, hats, heavy socks for children and adults (especially), and underwear. Bring in your items starting December 1 through December 29. They will be given to RISSE.

Church Happenings

Choir: We are so pleased to have the choir returning in worship. The choir meets for rehearsal every Sunday at 9 am, and will sing once a month in worship and for special occasions. Everyone of all levels are invited to join us to make a joyful noise to God!



Church Happenings (Continued)



Stewardship 2026

Every November, we share in the effort of Emmanuel Friedens Stewardship campaign, which begins in November. This is not simply a collection of monetary pledges; it is our vote of support for our church’s faithful future.

You should have received your pledge card in the mail. If you are unable to attend the worship service on Giving Sunday, November 23, please mail your pledge to the Church office by November 20 “so that we might symbolically make your offering of stewardship.” If you do not receive your pledge card, please call the office and another one will be sent out. Pledge cards will also be available at the back of the sanctuary.



Holiday Concert at Emmanuel Friedens: Our church is happy to host the Albany Gay Men’s Chorus—*Jingle All The Way!* concert-a choral celebration of joy, community, and inclusivity. They will perform here on Sunday, December 7 at 3 pm. The cost of a ticket is \$20 (purchasing online) and \$25 at the door. Website to purchase tickets:
<https://tickets.chorusconnection.com/agmc/events/1589>
<https://www.facebook.com/Albanygaymenschorus/>

Our Annual Halloween Party-Sunday, October 26



Our Sunday greeters-the Lent family



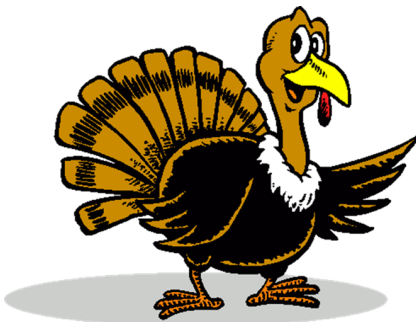
Halloween Party: Our community neighbors stopped in for the fun!

In The Community

- A Recital of Piano Works by Michael Harrison: Our former Minister of Music, Michael Harrison will perform with guest artist, Ann Marie Adamick, Mezzo Soprano, on Sunday, November 23 at 3 pm-First Reformed Church of Scotia, 224 N Ballston Ave in Scotia. There will be a free will offering.
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Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!



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

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!