

Contact Us:
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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
September 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 437

September 2025

WELCOME BACK SUNDAY September 21

Worship in the Park
Followed by the ...



Ice Cream Social

From the Pastor

Autumn Prayer

Here is a prayer
for collapsing
Falling
Letting go

A prayer
For cozy nights
Needing warmth

A prayer
for
the changes
That are needed

And those
who are hanging
onto the
sunlit
beams of summer

Here is a prayer
for seasons
of life

What a gift
to live in a place
Where things
grow and change

and become renewed
over
And over again



Autumn Begins on September 22

Here is a prayer for
Fall

May we fall
into it
as gently
as we need to

And may we
give ourselves
The time we need
To appreciate
the changes
along the way

Amen

Dear Emmanuel Friedens,

I have not yet been here a full year, and yet I am excited to start the fall with you. I remember the last picnic I celebrated with you, where I started to get to know you. Here we are once again looking towards a time to come together to work and grow together all the ways: spiritually, mentally, and emotionally. I have been talking to people about all the ways to measure how churches function. There are numbers of course, but there are relational ways as well.

Some of the measures of success are: Does the church reflect the neighborhood? Do we foster relationships that would otherwise not happen? Are we a space for intergenerational relationships? This last one is a big one because many work, school and other spaces are not intergenerational and church is rich in intergenerational relationships. Also, the church tends to cross socio-economic lines in ways that other spaces do not, pulling from geographical and work-places that would not meet otherwise. All of this, plus the fact that there is no cost barring entry to the worship space, makes church a unique space in the community. If we can then make the church a welcoming and empowering place to be, then we create a place of sanctuary and hope for all people and generations. I personally find community building to be the core and gift of what it means to be a church space. I am excited to see what we do next as a congregation together. As we look forward to the next programmatic year, I hope we are able to try things on and enjoy exploring how to help the community and one another together.

Here is what we know so far—Dianna Parisi is hard at work putting together music for us. If you want to do any special music, or know of anyone to ask during worship, please let her know! Additionally, we are excited to be reforming the choir! Her email is pianowithdianna@gmail.com. Finally, we are gathering everyone's *favorite hymns*, so do drop her an email or fill out a form on Sunday so we can add it to our collection.

The fall will be starting with some fun, scheduled events. The Welcome Back Sunday Picnic is September 21st at the Lion's Pavilion at Collins Park in Scotia and Kelley Gourley from RISSE is scheduled to do a full presentation about ICE and immigrants after worship September 28th. Additionally we will be resuming fellowship time after worship, with refreshments in the Gathering Room. If you know of other speakers that you want to be invited, let me know as we are deciding how to move forward in the coming months (katyandtheword@gmail.com).

I am looking forward to a lovely fall.

Pastor Katy

Church Happenings

Welcome Back Sunday (Worship in the Park)

The Church Council is very excited about our upcoming Welcome Back Sunday Service (10 am) and Picnic on **9/21/25**. This year, we will again be worshipping at the Lion's Pavilion in Scotia and following the service, we will continue to enjoy fellowship with a annual picnic*. The church will be providing hamburgers/hot dogs, rolls and beverages. We are asking the congregation to supply the 'sides'. Please let the office know by **Wednesday, 9/17/25**** what you are able to bring, including any of the following items to round out the meal, and how many persons will be attending: Potato, macaroni, green salads, etc., chili, soups (need to be in crock pots, the pavilion has electric hook-ups), baked beans, chips, additional desserts

We ask that you include an ingredient card for people who may have special dietary needs.

* Ice Cream Social— an ice cream truck will be present for everyone to get their ice cream goodies—thanks to the Christian Education Committee

**There is a sign-up sheet for needed items at the back of the Sanctuary.

Directions to the Lion's Pavilion (from Schenectady):

- Turn right at the end of the Gateway Bridge into Scotia (Jumpin' Jacks will be on the corner) onto Schonowee Ave.
- travel down a little way and turn left onto Kiwanis Way
- destination will be on the right (a little ways down the road)

Call to Meeting

Fall Quarterly Business Meeting
Sunday, October 19
@ 11:15 am (following worship)
In-person and Zoom connection

Please plan to attend. We do need your input, whether it be in-person or via Zoom connect. Questions and concerns; Jocelyn McKinney, (518-878-1861, georgia2697@aol.com). A light fare will be served prior to the meeting.

Immigration Response

Mark your calendars! On Sunday, September 28 following worship, Kelley Gourley, who is the Director of Operations at RISSE (Refugee and Immigrant Support Services Emmaus, Inc returns to give us a presentation regarding immigration response policies and what to do if we actually have to implement them. This presentation will focus on 1) Knowing your rights when it comes to interaction with immigration agents 2) Learning how you can share this knowledge with others, particularly newcomer communities 3) How you can get involved with local rapid response efforts and support those who have been affected by detainment and deportation. If you missed the Q & A session in June with Kelley, see you for this one.

School of Wonder and Mystery

August 4-8



Church Happenings (Continued)

School of Wonder and Mystery

August 4-8



We had a wonderful week for the School of Wonder and Mystery! We combined the theme of water from the Bible and the scientific theme of water into our theme God’s Living Water. In their classes, they did research projects on ocean animals, made jellyfish and learned about the water cycle. We did a collaborative art project with our friends at C.R.E.A.T.E Community Studios, went to Via Aquarium and to Bowtie for their \$1 movie, and spent a morning at Collins Park-Splash Pad. Thank you to all who made this possible! Charlie Reyes
Save the Date for next year: August 3-7, 2026!

From the church: Thank you to the staff (Miss Allison-ELA, Miss Kiara-Science and Miss Nelly-Creativity) and to the Director, Charlie Reyes. Thank you to the volunteers, Pastor Katy and her son, Ashburn, and Faye Bailey too.

In the Community

Sycamore Collaborative News/Activities:

- 30th Year: Summer Lunch Program
Volunteers and interns served over 8,000 meals to children and youth in the Schenectady area!
- 5th Annual Friends n’ Farmers Fall Festival
Saturday, September 20, 12-2 pm, while supplies last!
Come with your family and friends-FREE - @ Sycamore Collaborative, 837 Albany Street

New Breath Spirituality Center:

Don’t Skip Recess: Play and Spirituality

Come learn how play and spirituality
are connected, and how can we
incorporate more spiritual play into
our lives!

Led by Matthew Ray Lyda

Monday, September 29th 7-8pm
Online via Zoom

Go to www.NewBreath.org for more
information and to register!



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!*