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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 448

September 2026

WELCOME BACK SUNDAY September 20

Worship in the Park Followed by the ...



Ice Cream Social

From the Pastor

We talked a little bit about Exodus 3:1-14 and how God says that holy ground is wherever the space is for a safe relationship. The ground is not marked by stained glass or steeples, but instead by the space between two individuals working on relationships. We also talked about two vastly different people who provided spaces for holy ground: Dolly Parton and Tim Curry. Both of them believed in being themselves fully: Dolly often said, "Find out who you are and then do it on purpose" and Tim Curry said "Don't dream it, Be it." Vastly different, but equally welcoming both the *Rocky Horror Picture Show* and the Imagination Library, were places for people to authentically come and celebrate themselves.

When it comes to create our own opportunities for relationship and holy ground, forward to the picnic on September 20th, and the Albany Gay Men's Chorus joining us there. We then jump right into all of the fall activities. Choir will be underway, hopefully we will have the new peace room to build—if you haven't looked at the library to help our straggling books: please do, we are so close to finishing that project for the brand new choir room! We are truly working hard to create more space for holy ground.

We also have been working on our transition for the brunch and what that will look like going forward, how to have enough volunteers, how to communicate well. Thanks to everyone who has worked on this ever evolving project, as we work to find space and depth for the neighborhood to come and eat together in a safe, space together.

What are the holy relationships in your life? What are the spaces you are able to sit in silence safely? Where or when do you feel the most you? How do you recharge when you feel like you need more energy?

Here's hoping that we can feel a little bit more holy this Fall—or validate someone else's feeling of holiness.

Pastor Katy

From the Pastor

God
Breathe your Holy Ground

Giving space

Between

The relationships

We form

Helping them to be

Sanctuary spaces

Give us

Moments of

Authenticity

Silliness

Silence

And Hope.

Help us to build

More spaces where

People can exist

Exactly as they are

We pray.

Amen.

Church Happenings

Welcome Back Sunday

It is that time—Welcome Back Sunday – worship and picnic on **9/20/26**. This year, we will again hold our worship service at the Lion’s Pavilion in Scotia and following the service, we will fellowship with our 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, 9/16/26**** what you are able to bring, including any of the following items to round out the meal: potato, macaroni, green salads, etc., chili, soups (need to be in crock pots, the Pavilion has electric hook- ups), baked beans, chips, additional desserts, and how many persons will be attending:

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
- **There is a sign-up sheet for needed items located on the table 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)

The Library Books Going To Good Use

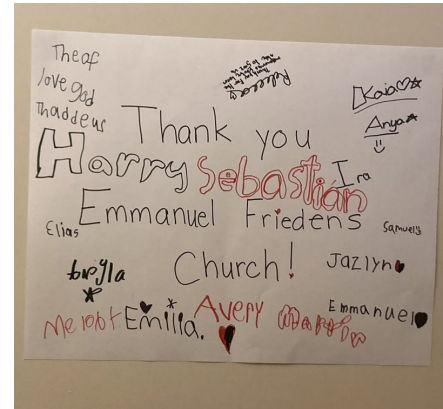
Just a note to let you know what happened to some of the books from our Library. One of my son's Scouts, from Troop 67, is working on his Eagle Project. He is building little, wooden, Children's Book Libraries and posting them in public areas around Glenville. The books are free to keep or return by the children. He needed books for grades K-5 to stock the libraries so I packed our age appropriate ones and he picked them up on Sunday. He is very grateful for the books and will keep us posted as his project continues this Fall. Thank you all for having a part in these children's lives. Mary Lou Chotkowski

Church Happenings

School of Wonder and Mystery

Heart and Soul, the Week of August 3-7

We, at the School of Wonder and Mystery, had a great time learning about Heart and Soul, how the body and spirit go together and how Science and God connect--we ate, played and prayed together all week long. Mi Sci visited, we went to the movies, played in the Spray Park, ate Jumpin Jacks, Danced and Sang and lived in Community with One another. We cannot wait until next year. Campers and Staff



"My kids had such a great time! Thank you Emmanuel Friedens Church and Ms. Charlie for this wonderful opportunity, as well as everything you do year round for the kids in our community!"

From the church: Thank you to the staff and to the Director, Charlie Reyes. Thank you to the volunteers, Pastor Katy and her son, Ashburn, and our music director, Diana Parisi.



We resume our monthly fellowship meals following Sunday worship--we start **September 13**. We encourage you to participate. It is always a fun time!

Church Happenings



Cooking up BBQ chicken for the August brunch. About 90 people were served.
Thank you to all the volunteers!

Congratulations



Anthony Chotkowski's Eagle Project - He, and the scouts under his supervision, created a meditation/ remembrance area at Thomas Corner's Fire House. A place for people to relax and remember those in the fire company who have gone before, including his grandparents. The Scouts created this area from the ground up, from the digging of the footing to the construction of the planter. Their work was celebrated at the Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremony on August 9th.

Thank You

- Dear Church Family, Thank you so much for the generous scholarship. I’m excited about my 1st year of college. You SUPPORT means a lot to me. Thank you. Affectionately, Hope Keller-Scholten
- The church thanks the following persons: Mary Lou Chotkowski and Evelyn Kauffman, her husband and stepson for hanging the drapery in the Boardroom, and Jeanne and Ray Andersons, and Patty Soellner for working in the library, cleaning out the room. (But more work is needed!)
- Dear Emmanuel Friedens Church, On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Bethesda House of Schenectady, we thank you for your donation of \$550 on 08/06/2026 in support of Bethesda House..... “ Warmly, Kimarie A. Sheppard, Executive Director (to read more, their correspondence is located on the office’s bulletin board).

In the Community

Sycamore Collaborative News/Activities:

- Summer Lunch Program Ended September 4
Volunteers and interns served over 6,500+ meals to children and youth in the Schenectady area.
- 6th Annual Friends n’ Farmers Fall Festival—@ Sycamore Collaborative, 839 Albany Street, Saturday, September 26, 12-2 pm, while supplies last! Enjoy fresh produce and seasonal treats. Come with your family and friends-FREE



Upcoming Fall Programs (www.newbreath.org)

- Holding Both: A Spiritual Approach to Grief (online-9/22, 7:30 –8:30 pm)
- Fall Retreat: “Being Present in Today’s World” October 16 -17, 5:00 pm, October 16 through 5:30 pm, October 17 at the Saranam Center for Healing & transformation, Greenville, NY

For more information on these events and others, check out their website.

Emmanuel Friedens Church
218 Nott Terrace
Schenectady, NY 12307



Autumn Begins on September 22

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



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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!*