

Contact Us:
(518) 374-4114
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Music Director
Dianna 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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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 436

Summer (July-August) 2025

From the Pastor

Dandelion Prayer

God who fills the world with good things
I am praying for rainbows of peace
As the school year draws to a close
And we struggle to make it
And Pride month ends, and we have“ rememories” (as my youngest calls them), and reminders that you are fiercely and beautifully made
I feel all if these emotions that smell like fresh cut lawns, sound like sudden hot thunderstorms, and nuzzle like my kitten at the end of a way over scheduled spring-to-summer season
God sometimes you know that pursing justice and sorting the laundry sometimes feel like that same thing
Mundane
Overwhelming
Vital
And yet
I think of how you continue to promise to fill the world with good things
Tuck a dandelion behind my ear as a symbol of hopeful weeds
And turn my worries into prayers once again. Amen.



Image from <https://www.mainegardens.org/blog/for-the-love-of-dandelion/>
Two dandelions growing, bright yellow with some blades of grass bright green against a cheerful dark background

From the Pastor (continued from page 1)

Dear Emmanuel Friedens,

Welcome summer, a time to change rhythms, complain about how hot everything is, eat fresh food of some kind and do a different kind of sermon series. This is what is liturgically called “ordinary time” because it, like summer, is time to just water, fertilize and grow the spirit. I don’t know about you, but I could use the time to sit, ponder and grow. *This Here Flesh* is a book written by Cole Arthur Riley, who got her start by writing breath prayers online and then eventually shaped a book about what embodied faith meant. What does it mean to try to connect the promises and prayers of God to reality? I always like to picture someone gesturing to the whole world and oneself and saying what does God have to do with ::gesturing at the world, everything and yourself:: all of this?

Cole Arthur Riley does this by wondering openly about the feelings one has and how they relate to the body, self and the fact that we have to live, survive and be in the world. It makes me wonder, if you have a love letter, a favorite way to relate to the world, what is it? For me, it is easy, it’s words all the time. I talk, write and read, the wordy, word-ness of verbal processing does it for me. For other members of my family, they are more visual. My husband is visual enough he can control his dreams. Physicality definitely matters more to Westley. Franklin is like me with words. Ashburn works well with his hands—he won the “keep the egg from cracking in the car” contest. (The one without parents help category, which is good, he did not want either parent touching that car, we are all thumbs with that kind of thing).

Where do you relate the world best? Is it walking in a garden? Cooking? Swimming? Is it when you spend time with animals? Are numbers your thing? Building stuff? Music or computers? I think it is fascinating that not only are we embodied beings, but there are so many ways to experience the world. The sensations of the world are endless, and yet we all belong here—*Sesame Street* has one of their great songs that “We are All Earthlings.” God’s creation, meant experience the earth and be a part of it.

I hope that we remember that as we go through summer.

Pastor Katy

Church Happenings

Community Brunch/BBQ: We Need Volunteers for the Upcoming Community Brunch, July 26: 4 volunteers are needed to work in the clothing/toiletries rooms. **Please contact** Nancy (518 817-1956, spencen@mail.amc.edu) to let her know if you can volunteer. Without the volunteers, these rooms will not be open to the community. Brunch attendees look forward to these rooms being opened.

In addition, we could use donations of bottled water.



Summer brunch BBQ was held on Saturday, June 28. A good attendance, lots of food consumed and a good time was had by all.



Thank you to all the volunteers!

School of Wonder and Mystery

August 4 – August 8, 2025
Monday- Friday
9:00 am-3 pm
Free to attend. A snack and lunch are provided.

The theme is *God’s Living Water*. They will be exploring the theme of water through science experiments, through reading and creative writing and through the Bible. There will be field trips and guests throughout the week to enhance the program. For information, call/text Charlie Reyes (518 694-6589).

Thank You

From the Dignity for All Scholarship Award Recipients

Gavin Brinkman, Schalmont High School: *“Dear Rev. Dr. Kathryn Stenta and the members of the Emmanuel Friedens Church, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for being selected as the recipient for the Dignity for All Scholarship Award. I am extremely appreciative of being selected for this honor. This will significantly help me as I begin pursing my Political Science degree at the University of Vermont. Thank you so much for your generosity and support. It means the world to me!”*

Emahnie Williams, Schenectady High School: *“Hello! I hope this letter finds you well! Thank you for this opportunity and this great gift. I will do my best to make you proud! I’m really grateful for this. About your worship, I will try to attend the service and appreciate you inviting me. Again, thank you so much! I will do my best.”*

Elizabeth Lewis, Mohonasen High School: Elizabeth attended our Pride Service which took place on June 22. She came with her mom and the teacher who nominated her for the award. Elizabeth met the congregation members who attended the service and she expressed her gratitude to them for receiving the award.

From Betty Detwyler: *Greetings, This is a belated thank you to all who attended the ‘Informal Gathering’ remembering Eric. It was good to see all of you and to hear your thoughts. A special thanks to Laurie Bacheldor who persuaded me to have something and who planned and organized everything. A thanks also to David Bacheldor for the music, to Faye Bailey for arranging the ‘campfire’ in the center of the Gathering Room, and to Marilyn Bisgrove for the delicious refreshments. Best wishes to all of you. Peace, Betty Detwyler*

From Gareth (Gary) Griffiths: *Dear Friends at Emmanuel Friedens, What a lovely surprise to receive your gift at this past Sunday’s service (June 29). My garden is as great a passion for me as music so I was thrilled to have a gift card to use at Kulak’s nursery. It has already been put to use - especially with a large, gorgeous shrub for the corner of my house.*

From: Vick and Pathfinder Camp and Conference Ministries: *We acknowledge with thanks and appreciation a gift to VPCC Ministries. (Given by our church, in the amount of \$3000 for updating Pathfinder Lodge and facilities.)*

Refreshments for Fellowship Time: A big thank you to all the volunteers who provided us with delicious sweets to munch on for after worship gatherings from October 2024-June 2025. And Marilyn and Bart Bisgrove made sure coffee and tea were available-thank you.



Congratulations To Our 2025 Graduate

Jada Marie White graduated from Mohonasen High School on Thursday, June 26. Jada plans on attending Hudson Valley Community College for 2 years starting this Fall, then transferring to the University of Albany to complete her studies, possibly majoring in Psychology.

Jada is the daughter of Kaitlin Soellner, granddaughter of Rich Soellner and niece of Patty Soellner. She is a member of our church.

Save the Dates

WELCOME BACK SUNDAY
September 21
Worship in the Park
(at the Lion's Pavilion-Scotia)
Followed by the ...



Sunday, September 28: Kelley Gourley, Director of Operations at RISSE (Refugee and Immigrant Support Services Emmaus, Inc), returns to give us a presentation on immigration response policies and what to do if we actually have to implement them.

Emmanuel Friedens Church
218 Nott Terrace
Schenectady, NY 12307



HAPPY
SUMMER

~The next Envoy
will be issued in September ~

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!