

# 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

**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



**Included in This Issue...**

<b>From the Pastor</b>	<b>1-2</b>
<b>Friedens UCC Meeting Minutes</b>	<b>3-4</b>
<b>Congratulations</b>	<b>4-5</b>
<b>Birthday Greetings</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Thank You</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Church Happenings</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Save the Date</b>	<b>7</b>

**Insert:**  
July Calendar

Issue 447

Summer (July-August) 2026

## From the Pastor

God the master creator,  
created life to be in relationship from the very beginning.  
From the first moment, God said, we need life.  
They planted us in a garden, to coexist with and work with plants.

God the gardener

We are at no more than co-gardeners

In reality we would probably do better to think of ourselves as plants.

We need Sunlight, and Water, and Food  
and tending

(Perhaps a little weeding now and then)

Please tend to us this summer

We pray

Amen

## From the Pastor (continued from page 1)

Dear Emmanuel Friedens,

Per usual, summer has crept up on me in the busyness of June. June was amazingly busy with the welcoming of our two officially, official members Evan and Carl and the baptism of Jaydon. We are so grateful to have them. We celebrated Pride, hosted the Albany Gay Men's Chorus (which was a great success again), and were a part of the Multi-Faith Tent to host collaborative art together at the Schenectady Pride event. We also handed out the Dignity for All Scholarships Awards. One of the recipients, Pierce, who couldn't make it for our actual Pride Sunday service, was able to come to one of our Pride celebration Sundays at the end of June. Also, the Reyes' children shared their Gift of Music with us during Father's Day.

The Brunch seems to be coming along under new leadership. We are so very grateful for everyone who is pitching in with food, volunteering, setting- up, cleaning- up, and more. We seem to be holding steady at 70-80 people attending even when there is another BBQ down the block. It is important to continue to evaluate why it is we do the ministries we do and talk to people about why they come, and what is meaningful for them. And also why they serve and how that works for them.

Thank you to the choir for a wonderful first year. It is a lot to restart something and I am really grateful for everyone who took part. It is beautiful to have the singing expand this year.

We surveyed people about what they would like to do this summer, and most people suggested a more interactive worship outside. So we are going to do a summer and music discussion outside. The discussions that we have about how God directly interacts with our lives can get right into our souls and we feel like the rocky times of daily living can weigh on us. Where does God fit into all that? Does spiritual practice "work?" Does what we do "Matter?" What is the cost of who we are and what we are doing spiritually, emotionally, and materially, etc? I think there is a lot to ponder as we try to think through how our well-being is connected to our faith and how we live.

Here is looking forward to exploring some of that this summer.

Pastor Katy

## **Friedens United Church of Christ Consistory Meeting – Summary** **(Held May 17, 2026)**

**Purpose of the called meeting:** To discuss membership and future of the Friedens UCC.

### Present:

Angela Keller (President), Kevin and Danielle O'Brien, Jocelyn McKinney (Secretary), Jonathan McKinney, Jackie Scholten (Treasurer), Joanne Vanderhule, and Pastor Katy Stenta

### Background:

Friedens United Church of Christ has not updated the bylaws since 1979, nor is there an existing estate plan within the old bylaws. The bylaws no longer represent the operational functioning of the Church within the Federated Church with Emmanuel American Baptist Church.

We have four officers in place to meet the requirements of Wells Fargo which is managing the endowment fund. At the Annual Meeting in January, it was difficult to get volunteers to fill the four positions. All four officers had hoped to rotate off.

It was noted that there are 13-14 current Friedens members who participate in church services and other activities, with varying regularity.

Jonathan reported that Friedens currently has an endowment of \$199,891.69, contributing approximately 8% to the Federated Church budget.

### Discussion:

Do Friedens members want to become unified with Emmanuel Baptist Church, belonging to one body, as opposed to being federated and operating as independent church entities with a single budget? For those in attendance, it was noted that members would agree to becoming unified should that motion be brought before the Friedens congregation.

Concerns were raised regarding losing our identity as a member of the United Church of Christ. Several members have been lifelong members and others expressed sentimental reasons for not losing their identity. It was noted with sadness that there are few members from Friedens who have a working knowledge of the church's history prior to becoming federated and documented history is limited.

Questions regarding designated funds; if Friedens is no longer deemed UCC, what, if anything happens to any funds that were designated, specifically to Friedens? Jonathan agreed to research any designated funds, Pastor Stenta agreed to follow up on inheritance options and process.

(continued on page 4)

## **Friedens United Church of Christ Consistory Meeting – Summary** **(Held May 17, 2026) - continued from Page 3**

Faye Bailey, previous EFC Treasurer, was questioned about combining UCC and ABC endowed funds and noted that the Friedens fund could be merged with Emmanuel's, eliminating the need

for UCC consistory. Further, it was felt that a separate account could be established to keep the two endowment funds separate, to honor their origins.

It was agreed that UCC members will continue to meet to discuss further plans and future steps.

### Action Steps:

- Jocelyn will write up the minutes of the meeting.
- Angela will summarize the outcome of the meeting for the Envoy.
- Pastor Stenta will reach out to UCC regarding legal issues.
- Jonathan will research any designated funds to see if there are limitations that would impact combining with Emmanuel endowment funds.

## **Congratulations**



### **From Sharon Carter**

I am blessed and very proud that my twin great-granddaughters are graduating with honors from Schenectady High this month.

Nashauna will be attending SUNY Albany, majoring in Economics. Niasia will be attending SUNY Binghamton, majoring in Biology. She will also join the orchestra and continue playing double bass.



**Wedding Announcement**—Marilyn and Bart Bisgrove traveled to Neuffen, Germany with family (son and daughter-in-law, Steven and Debbie Bisgrove, and grandson David) to attend the wedding of their granddaughter, Mary to Michael Dickensheets. They were married on June 7.

Mary was baptized Easter 2006 by Larry Phillips when she was 10 years old. Betty Detwyler was her spiritual guide leading up to her Baptism. Her childhood years were spent as part of Emmanuel's youth. Her great-grandmother was Althea Nelson, church secretary for 3 ministers, Jim Miller, Jim Stumbo, and Larry Phillips. Mary graduated from Bethlehem High School, Montana State College, and the University of Augsburg, Germany with a Masters in International Business and Finance. She is currently working for Texas Instrument in Freising, Germany. Mary met Michael in Bozeman, MT after working a summer job at Yellowstone National Park. They reside in Munich, Germany.

**Birthday Greetings**



Josephine Cristy, a long-time member of our church, will celebrate her 100th birthday on July 11. Josephine was a teacher at Howe Elementary School in Schenectady for 17 years where she recently returned for an assembly given in her honor (pictured here). If you would like to send her a birthday card with your good wishes/thoughts, call the church office for her address.

Picture taken from the Schdy School District Website

**Thank You**

**From the Dignity for All Scholarship Award Recipients**

*Hi, it's Pierce Olsen, the one who received the Dignity for All Scholarship Award. I'm so sorry that I didn't attend your service on the June 7th, had I opened the envelope that had come with it any sooner I absolutely would've come. It's just that in this incredibly hectic time of the year no one had the time or mind space to remember about opening it. So I didn't know about it until it was way too late. Again, I'm sorry for not attending and I wish I could, Best wishes and happy Pride.*

*Sincerely, Pierce Ryan Olsen (Niskayuna High School Graduate)*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Hello, Thank you so much for choosing me for the Dignity for All Scholarship award! I'm so honored to be recognized in this way. I'm so sorry that I wasn't able to attend your Pride Worship service, as I was busy with a prior commitment.*

*Many thanks,  
Rose Chance (Schenectady High School Graduate)*

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Katy,

*I would like to thank you and your church for recognizing my daughter Sare Moore for the Dignity for All Scholarship Award. It means a lot and will help significantly toward college expenses. Unfortunately, Sare was too shy to attend your June 7th service. .... Again, I cannot thank you enough for recognizing Sare and giving them this opportunity.*

*Sincerely, Steven Moore (Sare is a graduate of Schalmont High School)*

*Hello! My Name is Elliot Feuz. I received the "Dignity For All" Scholarship Award at Scotia-Glenville High School. I am extremely grateful to have received it. I will put the money into my college education for things including textbooks and costs for college. ...I would have loved to be able to give my thanks to your church community.*

**Church Happenings**

# School of Wonder and Mystery

**August 3– August 7, 2026**  
**Monday- Friday**  
**9:00 am-3 pm**  
**Free to attend. A snack and lunch are provided.**

The theme is *Heart and Soul*. SWM invites children entering grades K-8 to explore the scientific theme of the human body and the spiritual theme of our heart and soul. Campers will explore these themes through our ELA class, science class, and creativity class as well as through worship, music, and trips in the community. Please register as soon as possible. For more information, call the church office, 518 374-4114. So, **spread the word to your family, friends and neighbors.**

**Save the Date**

**WELCOME BACK SUNDAY**  
**September 20**  
**Worship in the Park**  
**(at the Lion’s Pavilion-Scotia)**  
**Followed by the ...**



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/890-;-; \]\](https://www.facebook.com/890-;-; ]\)

Emmanuel Friedens Church  
218 Nott Terrace  
Schenectady, NY 12307



~The next Envoy  
will be issued in September ~

---

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!*