

Emmanuel Friedens Church

First Sunday of Lent

Sunday, February 22, 2026

*A Welcoming, Open and Affirming Congregation
American Baptist and United Church of Christ Congregation*

Rev. Dr. Katy Stenta, Pastor

Guest Minister: Rev. James Ketcham



Welcome to Emmanuel Friedens Church

Due to heating issues in the Sanctuary, our worship service will be held in the Chapel.
The service will be held at 10 am.

Online Worship will also be available on Facebook or via Zoom.
(see below)

Facebook Live from the Emmanuel Friedens Church Facebook page

Log in to Facebook, and go to the Emmanuel Friedens page on Sunday morning.

If you have difficulty locating it, the link is: <https://www.facebook.com/Emmanuel-Friedens-Church-122934277889274/>

If you have a Facebook account and want to be notified about Emmanuel Friedens events, log into Facebook, go the Emmanuel Friedens Church Page and click “Like”.

The service will “go live” at 9:55 am to allow time to find it on Facebook before the service begins at 10 am.

OR

Join Zoom gathering

Zoom by internet:

<https://zoom.us/j/7050534826?pwd=eWdMNmJBT0FpK1ZHeE1jS0ZyNUVZQT09>

Meeting ID: 705 053 4826 Password: 063310

Please note: To connect to Zoom, please hold down the “control key-CTRL” and hit the link.

This should connect to Zoom.

Then enter the meeting ID and password

Dial by any phone (voice and sound only)

1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 705 053 4826 Password: 063310

A recorded video version of this service

will be available after 11 AM on Sunday mornings. At a time of your choice, go to the church’s website, <http://emmanuelfriedens.org/> and click on the link located on the Home page for the video of that day.

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Prelude

“We Fall Down”

Words and Music by Chris Tomlin
Minister of Music: Dianna Parisi



Words of Welcome and Announcements

Jocelyn McKinney



Call to Worship

Rev. James Ketcham

One: Let us be led by the Spirit,

Many: Even if the path to the promised land leads straight into the desert.

One: Through hunger and doubt and temptation;

Many: Even if we are led where we'd rather not go.

One: Yet we will be led by the Spirit

Many: And end our journey, rejoicing.

ALL: Come, let us worship our God.



+Opening Hymn

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

Hymns for the Living Church
Red Hymnal #60



+The Peace of Christ

Pastor: The Peace of Jesus Christ be with you all

People: And also with you.

The Prayers of the People (Celebrations and Concerns)



Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer - Traditional

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,

thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.



The Children's Message

Charlie Reyes



+Hymn

"Take My Life, God, Let it Be"

The New Century Hymnal
Black Hymnal #448



The Candle of Welcome, Openness and Affirmation

Jocelyn McKinney

At Emmanuel Friedens Church, we believe that the love of God is extended to all of God's creation—to all of our sisters and brothers, regardless of any human quality, challenge, or condition. We light the Welcoming, Open, and Affirming candle as an expression of our solidarity and shared mission with the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists and with the Open and Affirming Churches of the United Church of Christ. The lighting of this candle represents our invitation to everyone, including those of every gender identity and sexual orientation, to participate fully in the ministry of the Body of Christ.

Prayer of Confession



Assurance of Pardon

(All) In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.



Scripture Reading

Matthew 4:1-11

Ray Andersons

Sermon

"The Temptations"

Rev. James Ketcham



Call for the Offertory

"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

African-American Spiritual
arr. Dianna Parisi

Offering:



Doxology

**We ask you, God, these walls to bless;
fill with your love their emptiness;
and make their door a gateway true
to lead us from ourselves to you.**



+Offertory Prayer



+Closing Hymn

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”
(Verses 1-3)

Hymns for the Living Church
Red Hymnal #11



+Blessing and Dismissal



Postlude

“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”

Composed by Rick Founds
arr. Dianna Parisi

+ *Please stand, if you are able*

As a Welcoming and Affirming/Open and Affirming Church, Emmanuel Friedens Church welcomes and affirms all persons without regard to gender, marital status, age, race, sexual orientation, or abilities, inviting all into membership, mission and leadership.

The Babyfold is open during worship but there is no scheduled supervision.

Hearing assists are available at the back of the sanctuary.

Fellowship Time: Following the worship service, please join us in the Boardroom for refreshments and enjoy the after-worship program, *Journeying with Jesus through Lent*.

Visitors Invitation: All visitors are invited to sign into the red book at the entryway of the Chapel.

Guest Minister: Let us welcome back Rev. James Ketcham, who will lead worship and preach today. Rev. Ketcham is a retired American Baptist Minister. He has served churches in Minneapolis, MN, Rochester, NY and Painted Post NY. He has also served in leadership positions for nonprofits in Chicago, Kalamazoo MI, and Minneapolis, MN. His last position before retiring was as Executive Director of FOCUS Churches of Albany.

Jim continues his ministry on a volunteer basis, serving on the boards of Troy Area United Ministries (TAUM), his home church of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Albany, and the NYS Council of Churches.

He also has a part-time job with the NYS Council of Churches, helping to screen Protestant candidates who are applying to become prison chaplains with the State Department of Corrections and Community Services.

Jim is married to Jan Curtis of Kalamazoo, MI. They live in the Lansingburgh neighborhood of Troy and have one son, John, who is a captain in the US Army military police, serving at Fort Stewart in Georgia.

Announcements for the Week of February 22, 2026

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- **Journeying With Jesus Through Lent**

Members and friends, after worship, you are invited to the Board Room for coffee and snacks, followed by experiences of *Journeying with Jesus Through Lent*. **Please join us– starting today, Sunday, February 22!**

- **EFC's Community Brunch** will be held on Saturday, February 28 from 10:30-11:30 am, and the clothing and toiletries rooms will be opened too. **On the menu will be pizza, wings and pasta. Brunch Donations Needed! Canned soda, bottled water, and desserts. Please bring your donations to the church by Friday, February 27. Thank you. On the menu will be pizza, wings and pasta.**

March Envoy: Please send to the church office by Monday, March 2 any articles, photographs, etc you want included in the March Envoy. Thank you.

Pastor's Katy Schedule: Pastor Katy will be on vacation through Sunday, February 22. Rev. Sara Baron, Pastor of the First United Methodist Church, is available for emergency pastoral care (1-607-435-2201) through this time.

Emmanuel Friedens Church



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*E-mail: ebcfried@nycap.rr.com, Website: www.emmanuelfriedens.org
www.facebook.com/emmanuelfriedenschurch*

Pastor		Rev. Dr. Kathryn Stenta
Music Director		Dianna Parisi
Office Administrator		Maria Puccio
Custodian		Dave Snyder

Church Hours

Pastor's Hours: Pastor Katy will be available for appointments Monday-Thursday. She will have open door office hours (no appointment necessary) every Tuesday from 9:30-11:30 am. Friday is her Sabbath Day. Telephone number and email: 518-380-6922., katyandtheword@gmail.com.

For emergency pastoral care, please contact Pastor Katy directly (see above) or through the church office.

Church Office: Monday-Friday, 9:30 am –3:30 pm

Custodian: M-W, 3:30-8:00 pm; Th., 3:30 - 9:30 pm; F, 3:30 - 7:30 pm