

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
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Emmanuel Episcopal Church
400 W. Yates Street
East Syracuse, NY 13057
Find the Sunday Service on Facebook
Website:
facebook.com/emmanueleastsyracuse

The Rev. Julie E. Calhoun-Bryant,
Priest-in-Charge

February 15, 2022

Dear Friends,

This week's topic is forgiveness. As the Lord's Prayer shows us, there are two parts to forgiveness, God's forgiveness of us and our forgiveness of others: "forgive us our sins [just] as we forgive those who sin against us." In the Bible forgiveness is primarily the act of God by which he graciously takes away the barriers which separate us from his presence, thus opening the way to reconciliation and fellowship with God. Only God can remove the barriers that separate us. When God the Son died on the cross his blood was "shed for many for the forgiveness of sins." (blessing over the cup). Through Jesus' death the barrier is removed between God and humanity. Thanks be to God that we are forgiven and restored to our created place as children of God.

God went to great lengths to forgive us our sins. Sin is such a serious problem that God sent his only begotten Son to rescue us from its power. If God has gone to extraordinary lengths to forgive us, shouldn't we go to extraordinary lengths to forgive one another? Yes! Forgiveness is not optional for Christians. Holding a grudge or nursing the anger in your heart does not harm the other person's soul; it harms your soul. Moreover, refusing to forgive requires treating that person as an obstacle to be overcome or an object of derision, and not as a fellow child of God.

So then, what exactly is forgiveness of one another? First, here is what forgiveness is not. It is not saying that what the other person did doesn't matter. It does matter. Nor is it saying that the sinful action never really happened. Forgiveness between humans doesn't magically erase the sin, or its consequences. The damage is done. Forgiveness requires letting go of the ill feelings that the sinful act caused. Where possible, it means breaking down the barriers that were erected by the sin and restoring the relationship. If a person is in danger of being harmed again, such as in an abusive relationship, forgiveness should be done from afar. The greater the harm, the longer it will take to forgive, but it's a road all Christians are called to walk. I have found that I cannot remain unforgiving toward someone whom I am praying for every day. Prayer breaks down the barrier in my heart. Not one of us is perfect. We all have sinned and needed to be forgiven. And we all have needed to forgive. It's dangerous to keep an open heart, for an open heart can be hurt by others. Yet God calls us to keep our hearts open and to love one another as he loves us.

Until Jesus Christ returns to defeat the powers of sin and death we will sin and need forgiveness, and we will need to forgive those who have sinned against us, as we walk the way of Christian love.

Grace be with you,
Mother Julie+

In Person Schedule

Saturday	Emmanuel	Coffee Hour: 4:15 pm	Worship: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	St. Alban's	Bible Study: 8:30 a.m.	Worship: 9:30 a.m.
		Coffee Hour: 10:30 a.m.	
Wednesday	Emmanuel	Bible Study: 2:00 p.m.	

Zoom Schedule & Codes

Sunday

8:30 a.m. Bible Study: **835 9000 0245 & 562087**

9:30 a.m. St. Alban's Holy Eucharist: **826 9515 6305 & 446765**

Use your telephone for Zoom Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Dial 1-646-558-8656

When prompted Enter **826 9515 6305#**

When prompted Enter **#**

When prompted Enter **446765#**

That will put you in Zoom's waiting room.

Tuesday

10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer: **824 6993 1403 & 680299**

Wednesday

2:00 p.m. Bible Study: **840 0349 8213 & 586548**

5:45 p.m. Confirmation Class: **878 5399 0472 and 014354**

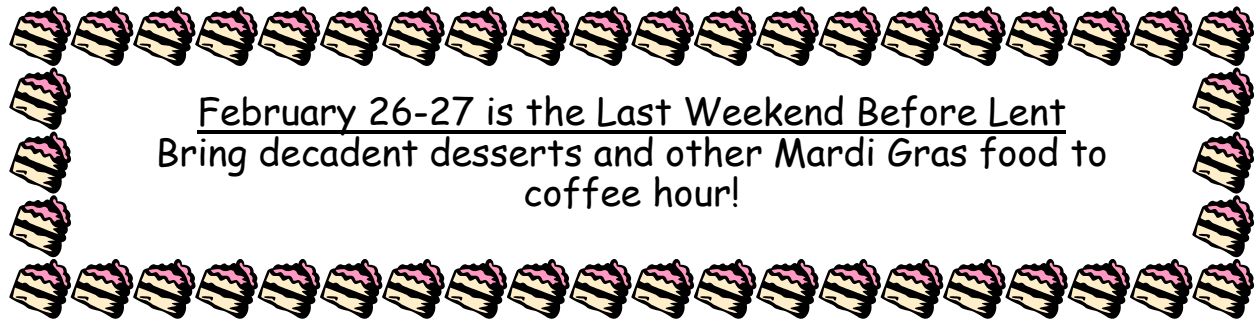
Thursday

6:00 p.m. Eat and Chat: **861 7759 3272 and 295096**

6:30 p.m. Mother Julie's Class

Mother Julie's Schedule for February 17-23

<u>Emmanuel</u>	<u>St. Alban's</u>	<u>Days Off</u>
Saturday: 4:00-6:30 p.m.	Sunday	Monday
Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	Tuesday: 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Friday
	Thursday: 12:00-8:00 p.m.	



February 26-27 is the Last Weekend Before Lent
Bring decadent desserts and other Mardi Gras food to
coffee hour!

**The Bishop is Coming to
Emmanuel on March 26 and St. Alban's on April 24**

Confirmation Classes are Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m. on Zoom
They are open to anyone who is interested in attending!
If you are unable to Zoom you can join Mother Julie at Emmanuel.

February 16: Sacraments
February 23: Book of Common Prayer
March 2: Ash Wednesday Service at St. Alban's in person and on Zoom
Ash Wednesday Service at Emmanuel: 3:00 p.m. (after Bible study)
March 9: English Reformation: Henry VIII and Edward VI
March 16: English Reformation: Mary and Elizabeth I
March 23: Beginning of The Episcopal Church in America

Zoom codes: 878 5399 0472 and 014354

Thursday Evenings on Zoom in February

6:00 p.m. Gather and share dinner from your home
6:30 p.m. Classes led by Mother Julie on Forgiveness (10th),
Redemption (17th) and Group's Choice (24th)

Thursday Evenings on Zoom in March - Lenten Book Study

6:00 p.m. Gather and share dinner from your home
6:30 p.m. Book Study: Jesus, by Marcus Borg

Mother Julie has ordered 8 copies at \$12 each.
Let her know if you want one. There is only 1 copy left.
If you are unable to Zoom you can join Mother Julie at St. Alban's.

Zoom Codes for Thursdays - 861 7759 3272 and 295096