

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
facebook.com/emmanueleastsyracuse
Email: emmanuel13057@gmail.com

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

March 14, 2023

Dear Friends, this week marks the third anniversary of the pandemic. Most of us hadn't a clue that we'd still be coping with COVID-19 in 2023. Those early days were fraught with fear. How does the virus spread? (Every Sunday after we reopened the church buildings I ran around disinfecting door knobs and light switches.) Is it safe to leave the house? How sick will we be if we catch the virus? How do we protect our loved ones most at risk? Sadly, St. Alban's lost Marjory Maynard and Emmanuel lost Linda Chambers that first year. My dining room became my office and for about 4 months I drove the car only once a week so I could meet David Houston at St. Alban's to tape the worship service for the website. We all spent both Easter and Christmas at home that year.

Then a vaccine became available and at first it was hard to find an appointment to get one. By the time you got through the online application all the slots were filled. People shared the latest information with each other about where to find them. Fortunately, the vaccine changed the course of the pandemic as it protected us from severe illness. I had COVID after the third shot and couldn't imagine how much worse I would have felt if I hadn't had it. I barely made it through Good Friday last year. The latest booster is the only one that contains the omicron variant (!), so I got it early.

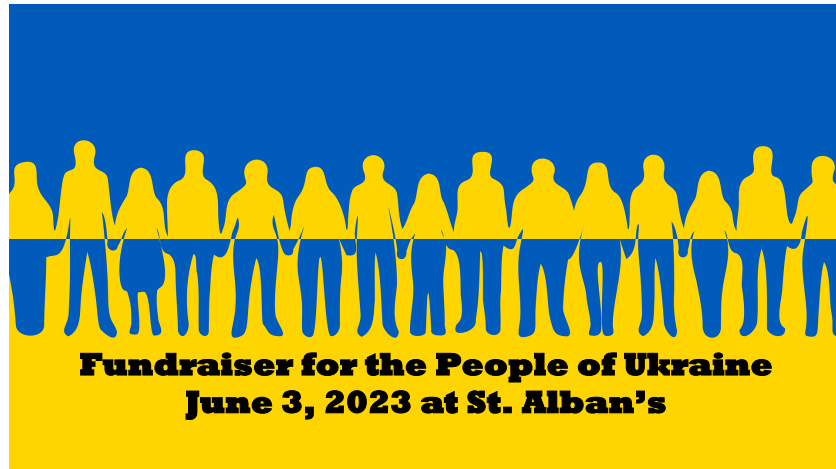
And God said, "Let there be Zoom," and Zoom we did. I learned how to Zoom and then taught many of the people of St. Alban's how to Zoom. Father Gerry Beritela was one of my Zoom mentors as he introduced Zoom worship at Emmanuel. It was the only way to gather safely and it kept our two small churches from closing. By the second Sunday of the pandemic shut down I was offering a Zoom service in addition to the YouTube service taped on Saturday. Every Tuesday afternoon the Bishop Zoomed with the clergy to guide, inform, and cheer us on. Then one Tuesday someone asked about Spiritual Communion. What a blessing that has been!

Zoom has opened up so many new possibilities. When the pandemic began I naively thought that it would be over in a few months, so I told the Thursday evening Lenten class members that I would keep the class going past Lent until the pandemic ended. With the exception of my vacation in July, I Zoomed a class most every Thursday evening from April until November. Whew! Then I added book studies in between Zoom classes. Six or seven book studies later, Thursday evenings on Zoom remain a time of growing in friendship and in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

The balance of being present on Zoom and being present in the church building remains a challenge. While at Emmanuel nearly everyone worships in the building, at St. Alban's there remains a small, faithful segment of the congregation that has stayed on Zoom and have their own time of fellowship while those in the building attend coffee hour. What a blessing this has become for them. The level of support they offer one another is a demonstration of Christian love. Yes, we miss seeing them in the building, and yes, it's an adjustment at a time when we've had to adjust to so many other changes, but in the end it's all about worshipping God together, no matter the platform. At St. Alban's we will continue to require masks for worship so that no one is afraid to come. The Vestry will revisit that decision in the warmer months.

The times, they are a-changing. Best that we change rather than become obsolete. The pandemic has sped up the technological changes that were coming anyway and caused us to embrace things like Zoom. Live streaming on Facebook is next. The year 2020 dawned with such hope for me. It took a bit, but that hope returned. I pray that it has for you as well. Together let us look forward to a Spirit-filled future in this new world, for God is already there.

Mother Julie+



Co-Chairs Grace Joseph and Jan Bookhout are in the planning stages for the fundraiser, which will include:

- Silent Auction
- Raffle Baskets
- Bake Sale
- Lawn games for children and families
- Possible book & media sale

All proceeds will go through the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

Needed are

- Committee Volunteers
- Bakers
- Donations for Raffle baskets
- Donations for the Silent Auction

Contact

Grace Joseph: grakat95@hotmail.com
Jan Bookhout: janellebookhout@hotmail.com

Lenten Food Drive for InterFaith Works 20+ Food Pantries

Pasta and Sauce
Canned Fruits
Peanut Butter
Jelly
Canned Vegetables
Soups/Ramen
Ensure
Cake mix/frosting



Canned Tuna/Chicken
Vegetable Oil
Cereal/Oatmeal
Baby formula
Pancake mix/syrup
Flour and sugar
Mayo
Shelf Stable Milk

**Thursday Evenings in Lent: Zoom Codes are the same for every Thursday
827 6703 2161 & 331119**

Wednesday, March 15: Final Book Study Session on Zoom (Use Thursday code.)

6:00 p.m. Eat and Chat

6:30 p.m. Discuss Chapter 5

March 16 and 23 on Zoom

6:00 p.m. Eat and Chat

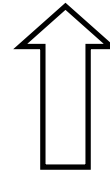
6:30 p.m. Mother Julie's Class: March 16 Mother Julie will share information about the Sacred Ground Pilgrimage in Alabama

March 30 on Zoom

6:00 p.m. Eat and Chat

6:15 p.m. Mother Julie's Class

7:00 p.m. Rule of Life Meeting



April 6: East Side Episcopalians at Emmanuel for Maundy Thursday

6:00 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

Diocesan Holy Eucharist Honoring Harriet Tubman

Wednesday, March 22 at Noon

on Zoom or in Auburn, Binghamton, Rome, and Watertown

In place of Bible Study that day Mother Julie hopes to carpool with people to SS. Peter and John in Auburn.

General Convention added the commemoration of Harriet Tubman to the prayer calendar last summer and at our diocesan convention we voted to mark it here since so much of her work at the end of her life was done in Auburn.

In Person Schedule: Both Parishes & Friends are Welcome!

Saturday	Emmanuel	4:15 p.m.: Coffee hour * 5:00 p.m.: Holy Eucharist
Sunday	St. Alban's	* 8:30 a.m.: Bible Study * 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m.: St. Patrick's Boiled Dinner
Wednesday	Emmanuel	* 2:00 p.m.: Bible Study



St. Alban's Vestry
March 21
6:30 p.m.

* also on Zoom

Zoom Schedule & Codes

Saturday

5:00 p.m. Emmanuel: **812 9701 3112 & 381729**

Sunday

8:30 a.m. St. Alban's: **835 9000 0245 & 562087 (not Feb. 26)**
9:30 a.m. St. Alban's: **826 9515 6305 & 446765**

Tuesday

10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer: **817 4372 7305 & 891158**

Wednesday

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

6:00 p.m. Eat and Chat: **827 6703 2161 & 331119**

6:30 p.m. Final Book Study

Thursday

827 6703 2161 & 331119

6:00 p.m. Eat and Chat

6:30 p.m. Report on the Sacred Ground Pilgrimage to Alabama

Use your telephone for Zoom

Dial **1-646-558-8656**

When prompted Enter

When prompted Enter

When prompted Enter

That will put you in Zoom's waiting room.

Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

826 9515 6305#

#

446765#

Other Events

First number#

Second number#

Mother Julie's Schedule

Saturday

Emmanuel
4:00-6:30 pm

Sunday

St. Alban's
8:10-11:40

Tuesday

St. Alban's
9:30-5:30 pm

Wednesday

Emmanuel
10:00-5:30

Thursday

12:00-8:00

Days Off

Monday & Friday