THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

(Reformed Church in America)

110 North Pearl Street, Albany, NY 12207 ~ (518) 463-4449

Email: info@firstchurchinalbany.org ~ **Website:** www.firstchurchinalbany.org ~ **Sunday Worship:** 10:30 am

Founded in 1642; Continuing in Ministry Today

In response to God's unconditional love for all people made known to us in Jesus Christ, we are called to be a welcoming and affirming community. The First Church in Albany includes young and old, families, couples and singles, rich and poor, persons of various races, ethnicities, backgrounds, sexual orientation and gender identities, differing physical and mental abilities, believers and seekers. We welcome into the full life of the church all those whom God sends us. Centered in Christ, we commit ourselves to breaking down dividing walls and building a community where all are loved.

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 23, 2017

THE APPROACH TO GOD

Prelude *Andante* Robert Fuhrer
Poco Adagio

Announcements

Call to Worship

Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.
Amen. Psalm 124:8

Praise the Lord, all you nations! Extol him, all you peoples!
For great is God's steadfast love toward us,
The faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.
Praise the Lord! Psalm 117

*Hymn 229 *From All That Dwell Below the Skies* LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Prayer of Confession

God of unending mercy,
we know that your love is stronger than anything
that would separate us from you.
Your forgiveness frees us from the constraints of the past
and sets us free for new life.
Yet at times we feel imprisoned by regret and fear,
and our hope for the future grows dim.
We despair because of what we see in the world,
because of what we suffer from one another,
and because of what we find in our own hearts.
Forgive us for clinging to resentment and remorse.
Send your Spirit to cleanse and renew our hearts.
Help us to trust you to make us vessels of your love,
that we may know the joy of life abundant given in our risen Lord.

(*The prayer may continue in silence.)*

Assurance of Pardon

The Peace

As God's forgiven people, let us lead lives worthy of the calling to which we have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (from Ephesians 4: 1-3)

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

*Response Tune: ST. ANNE

Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
Let strife among us be unknown, let all contention cease;
Be Christ the glory that we seek, be ours Christ's holy peace.

Text: *Ubi Caritas*, 8th century hymn translated by Omer Westendorf
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THE WORD OF GOD

The Prayer for Illumination

The New Testament Lesson Acts 9: 1-12
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Lesson Galatians 1: 13-24
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Sermon "Knocked Off Course"

The Prayer for Blessing on the Word

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

*Hymn 378 *Make Me a Captive, Lord* ST. BRIDE

Offering

Offertory *Grosser Gott, Wir Loben Dich* arr. Erwin Horn

*Doxology (Hymn 591)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

The Joys and Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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, for ever. Amen.

*Hymn 419 *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord* REPTON

*Charge and Blessing

The Lord God almighty is our Creator and Provider,
who loves us and tenderly cares for us.
The Lord Jesus Christ is our Savior,
who has redeemed us and will defend us to the end.
The Lord, the Holy Spirit, is among us,
and will lead us in God's holy way.

*Postlude *Fugue* J.C. Sim

AΩ *Those who are able please stand.

WORSHIP LEADERS: Preacher: The Rev. John D. Paarlberg; Organist: Iteke Prins.
WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS: The entire congregation.

We welcome all who gather to worship God this morning, especially visitors and friends from near and far. Please sign our guest book or complete a visitor's card (found in the pew rack) and place it in the offering plate. If you have questions about our ministry, we encourage you to speak with one of the pastors or an usher. There is an elevator in our building, which makes every floor accessible.

Please join us following the service for our Lemonade Lull in the church lobby.

Hearing assist devices are available for your use. Please ask an usher.

The flowers this morning are given by Wilma Sheffer in memory of loved ones.

First Church offers financial aid for children who wish to attend summer camp at Camp Fowler. Please see Pastor Paarlberg for more information.

Beginning July 24th Rev. Susan Vincent-Cox will be attending a 10 day residency for training in Spiritual Direction/Guidance. This is a 2-year program offered through Shalem Institute in Washington DC. This residency (one of two) will take place at Bon Secours Retreat Center near Baltimore, MD. This training will help Sue offer spiritual guidance here at First Church (and in community) in small groups, retreats, and individual time with our members.

The theme for the 2017 Room for All National Conference, "A Kaleidoscope of Intersections," focuses on the multiple identities that LGBTQ people embody and which shape their experiences; specifically, the intersections of LGBTQ identity and race, faith expression, and life journey. Full details are at https://roomforall.com/events/national-conferences, including a link to online registration. If you need help with registration, please call 201-364-4538 or see Marilyn Paarlberg. Early-bird discount registration deadline: July 28. Final deadline: August 25.

Save the date for Sunday, August 20th at 10 am. We will have one combined service celebrating the first worship service in 1642. A picnic will follow. We will be grilling hot dogs and hamburgers. Attendees are asked to bring a salad, side dish or dessert. Music by the Nat Phipps Jazz Trio.

The First Church 2017 Directory is under way. We are now taking individual photos for the directory. All photos will be taken in-house in the Powell Room.
Sign–up online via sign up genius.com at: http://bit.ly/2spbqog, or on the sign-up sheet in the lobby or by calling Valerie at the church office: (518) 463-4449.

Fifteen minute time slots have been allocated for the following dates:

- August 4, Friday: 10:00 am - Noon
- September 8, Friday: 10 am - 2 pm
- September 10, Sunday: 11:30 am - 2:00 pm
- September 15, Friday: 10 am -2 pm
- September 17, Sunday: 11:30 am - 2:00 pm

On Sunday, August 6 at 9:30 am the second of the **FOCUS Summer Worship Services** will be at **Emmanuel Baptist Church** 275 State Street. Pastor Kathy Donley will be preaching. The FOCUS congregations are worshiping together at 9:30 a.m. the first Sunday of each summer month. The next combined worship service is August 6 at Emmanuel Baptist Church and the third will be on September 3 at First Presbyterian Church.

***Pocket Prayer Shawls* are available at today's Worship.** Please ask one of our greeters and they can provide a basket of pocket prayer shawls to choose from. Pocket Prayer Shawls are made and filled with prayers and can be given to someone in need of comfort, healing, or a reminder of the closeness of God.

Please remember in your prayers this week:
Andrew Mondore, Monica Marsh, and Stephen Reohr who are volunteering at a Group Work Camp near Rochester, NY, this week.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Sunday	7/23	**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**
		9:00 AM Drive-In Worship
		10:00 AM Sanctuary Worship Service
		11:00 AM Lemonade Lull
Monday	7/24	9:00 AM - 11:30 AM - Food Pantry Open
Wednesday	7/26	9:00 AM - 11:30 AM - Food Pantry Open
		12:00 NOON AA Meeting
Sunday	7/30	**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**
		9:00 AM Drive-In Worship
		10:00 AM Sanctuary Worship Service
		11:00 AM Lemonade Lull

It is already time to be collecting school supplies for distribution to the children of our pantry families. Shopping lists are also available on the table in the lobby. Cash donations are also greatly appreciated! Becky Hudak is happy to purchase needed school supplies!