

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.

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost June 17, 2018

Pre-Service Music

Prelude

Variations on "Rhosymedre" Ralph Vaughan Williams
Our Father, by whose name all Fatherhood is known

Announcements

Call to Worship

Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

Amen.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to God's name.

It is good to declare the steadfast love and faithfulness of the Most High in the morning, and by night.

The Lord has made us glad by holy, generous and righteous work.

For all the Lord has done for us and for our world, we sing for joy.

Adapted from Psalm 92.1-4

*Hymn # 482 *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty!*

LOBE DEN HERREN

Prayer of Confession

Creating God, you have brought into being so many gifts, from the tiniest seed to the mightiest cedars. You speak and loveliness, fruitfulness, and strength come into being. You have sown inspiration and hope, justice and peace, love and possibility into our world.

When we forget your generosity, forgive us.

When we forget the ways the gifts of others have shaped us, forgive us.

When we forget that all we have is yours, and believe what we have is ours, forgive us.

Remind us again that being made in your image invites us to be as wildly generous as you.

(The prayer may continue in silence.)

Assurance of Pardon

*The Peace

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

And also with you.

Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

*Response (Tune to #386 - AZMON)

**O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.**

**O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more and all but love will cease.**

THE WORD OF GOD

The Prayer for Illumination

Eternal God, in the reading of the Scripture, may your word be heard; in the meditation of our hearts, may your word be known; and in the faithfulness of our lives, may your word be shown. Amen.

The Epistle Lesson 2 Corinthians 5.6-10, 14-17

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A Word with Children

The Gospel Lesson Mark 4.26-34
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Prayer for Blessing on the Word

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

*Hymn 399 *We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight* DUNLAP'S CREEK

Offering

Offertory *The Hidden Stream That Feeds* Eleanor Daley
*The hidden stream that feeds our daily acts of care / Springs forth in worship when
Christ leads the church in song and prayer. / Lord, through our lives may others hear
/ Your living waters drawing near. / A heart of stone and dust, of withered hopes and
dreams, / Becomes a spring of faith and trust by drinking from these streams. / Lord,
through our lives may others hear / Your living waters drawing near. / The stream
runs clear and deep and tastes of heaven's skies, / And where its ceaseless currents
sweep flows life that never dies. / Lord, through our lives may others hear Your living
waters drawing near. / We leave this watered place to work on rocky ground, / Yet
even there, the streams of grace sustain our daily round. / Lord, through our lives
may others hear / Your living waters drawing near.*

Text: Thomas H. Troeger used by permission of Onelicense # 700689

*Doxology (Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, no. 455)
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise, praise Creator, praise the Son,
Praise Holy Spirit, Three in One,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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 473

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

*Charge and Blessing

Postlude

Lobe den Herren (Praise Ye the Lord, Hymn # 482) Johann Walther

ΑΩ

*Those who are able please stand

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS: Liturgist: Rebecca Mondore; Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Allan Janssen; Minister of Music: Mary Bon; The Choir of First Church.

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. Please join us for refreshments and conversation after worship downstairs in Zimmerman Hall.

Children and Worship: A Joyful Way to Worship God

Will not meet in June, July, and August.

First Church is an accessible building:

- We have an elevator so you can reach every floor.
- Hearing assist devices are available for your use. Please ask an usher.



An Automated External Defibrillator "AED" is located in the lobby attached to the wall outside of the **workroom**.

Drive-in Worship Service continues each Sunday at 9 a.m. through the first Sunday in September. Worshippers gather in the Sheridan Avenue parking lot and in Clee Park for a half hour worship service led from the outdoor pulpit. If you arrive before 9:30 a.m. for the Sanctuary Service, please park in the Orange Street Lot or in the large lot against the wall that borders North Pearl Street.

Children 4 and under are welcome in the Nursery following “A Word with Children.”

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.

Parking Sticker Reminder: All First Church members should have the orange parking stickers displayed in the rear driver side passenger window of your vehicles. If you need of a parking sticker, please fill out the Parking Sticker Registration Application located on the lobby display table and in the Narthex then return it to Valerie Williams, parish administrator, to receive the parking sticker.

This Sunday is the choir’s last service before they break for the Summer. We appreciate their ministry and look forward to their return in the Fall.

Spring Fling Concerts - Wednesdays in June at Noon

Join us for a series of noon-time concerts in our sanctuary each Wednesday in June from 12:00 PM to 12:30 PM.

- June 20** *Americans All: Celebrating American Song*, Peter Subers, baritone soloist at First Church in Albany; Gene Marie Callahan, piano.
- June 27** *Baroque Pearls: Concert of Classical Song*
Rose Hunsberger, soprano soloist at First Church in Albany, Irina Tikhonenko, mezzo-soprano, Michael Clement, piano.

SATURDAY JUNE 23

CLEE PARK CLEAN-UP MORNING

Clee Park has a new walkway, smooth and safe. Larry and Jeff have been raking and cleaning, and the park is looking good overall. But look close, there are lots of weeds in the flower beds. First Church members and friends are invited to come to the park on Saturday morning, June 23, starting around 9:30 to weed and mulch for our service in the park on Sunday morning June 24 at 10:00. Bring any needed tools. Mulch and lawn bags will be provided. Thank you!

Board of Trustees

Sunday Flower Date Available:

June 24th is available for the dedication of sanctuary flower arrangements. The cost is \$65.00 for two vases. Please call the Church Office (518) 463-4449, if you are interested.

Next Sunday, June 24th our worship will be held at 10 am in Clee Park. After worship, we will have a picnic in the park. Please bring a dish to pass and join us!

On July 1st, we welcome members and friends of the FOCUS Churches to worship and share communion with us. FOCUS services will all begin at 10 am. After the service and some fellowship time, you are invited to a conversation in the parlor about FOCUS, strengthening relationships and our future direction as we step into the next 50 years together.

On July 1st, there will be a Festival Choir singing for the FOCUS service. We will meet in the choir room at 9:00 am and sing for the 10 am service. Everyone is welcome – you don't need to have sung in the choir in the past. Just join us. Contact Mary Bon @ maryebonverizon.net for more information.

Beginning July 8th, indoor worship will begin at 10 am. July 8th thru September 2nd indoor worship will be held in James Chapel, which is air-conditioned.

FOCUS Churches

JUNE/GARDENING IN A BUCKET WITH KIDS: Volunteers eagerly sought for this fun community project for youth scheduled for Albany Schools on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday the 2nd and 3rd week of June for 2-2.5 hours from mid-morning to early afternoon. Please contact Belinda for more information or to sign up: belindaq@focuschurches.net [518-443-0460](tel:518-443-0460).

MUSIC NOTE

The text for today's offertory anthem, was written by The Reverend Thomas H. Troeger, a retired professor at Yale Divinity School. He is noted for his many books on preaching, liturgy, and church music, and his poetry, which enriches our hymnody and choral repertoire. In his book, *Music as Prayer: The Theology and Practice of Church Music*, Troeger talks about how making and listening to music can be an act of prayer, a way experiencing the divine, a way both to comfort, and to encourage people to action.

The Canadian composer Eleanor Daley selected several of Dr. Troeger's poems for her *Four Canticles of Praise*. Last week's anthem "*Make of Our Church One Joyful Choir*" and this week's offertory, "*The Hidden Stream that Feeds*," are both part of this series. Daley has a unique gift for melody and has written over 80 choral pieces. Undulating undercurrents in the voices evoke the "hidden stream" with its "ceaseless currents" and "the streams of grace that sustain our daily round.



THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Sunday	6/17	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Drive-In Worship 10:30 am Sanctuary Service The Rev. Al Janssen, preaching Post Service: Coffee & Conversation Conversation with Al Janssen re: Synod
Monday	6/18	9:00 am – 11:30 am – Food Pantry Open 11:30 am Prayer Shawl Meeting
Tuesday	6/19	NO BIBLE STUDY
Wednesday	6/20	9:00 am – 11:30 am – Food Pantry Open 12:00 pm AA Meeting 12:00 pm Spring Fling Concert
Thursday	6/21	NO CHOIR REHEARSAL
Sunday	6/24	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 am Clee Park Outdoor Combined Worship Service Post Service: Picnic in Clee Park

Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden will be attending a conference June 15th thru June 21st. The Rev. Susan Vincent-Cox will be away for continuing education June 18th thru June 27th. If you have an emergency, please contact Rev. Leroy Seuss (518) 694-9399.