

The First Church

FAMILY

*The First Church in Albany • Founded in 1642
Reformed Church in America*

June 2019

WORSHIP:

2 Seventh Sunday after Easter

- 9:00 am Drive-In Worship (Communion)
- 10:30 am Sanctuary Service (Communion)
Congregational Meeting following worship service in
Sanctuary
- Post-service: Coffee & Conversation

9 Pentecost

- 9:00 am Drive-In Worship
- 10:30 am Sanctuary Service - Confirmation
- Post-service Congregational Potluck Luncheon
- 12:00 pm Pride Parade at Washington Park

16 First Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:00 am Drive-In Worship
- 10:30 am Sanctuary Service: Rev. Dr. Al Janssen, preaching
- 11:30 am Coffee & Conversation

23 Second Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:00 am Drive-In Worship
- 10:30 am Sanctuary Service: Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden, preaching
- 11:30 am Coffee & Conversation

30 Third Sunday after Pentecost

- 10:00 am Clee Park Outdoor Combined Worship Service
- Post Service: Picnic in the Park

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

Last summer Sue Vincent Cox and I began preliminary plans for a Confirmation program for the youth of the church. We knew we had nine eligible youth whom we hoped to match with adult mentors for a journey on which we would all learn more about Christianity, First Church, the Reformed Church in America and how to live out our faith.

Years ago, my younger sister observed that “things take longer than they do!” and it proved true as Sue and I worked developing resources, reaching out to families, seeking mentors, and gathering youth. It was a late January Saturday when at last we held our opening retreat. We played a game to get to know each other, had a scavenger hunt to learn about the church, found the ingredients for a cake in bible verse (a cake which we baked and shared at coffee hour!), and drew a faith timeline. It was a great beginning.

We have continued to meet two Sundays a month and have taken a look at the following topics:

- Christianity in the context of world religions
- The RCA in the context of Christianity
- What does our building say about what we believe?
- What we believe: The nature of God/Trinity
- The First Church in America: history and polity
- Worship: prayer, word, music and why
- Outreach and living out faith; CROP Walk
- CREDO: Doctrines, creeds, and what each of us believes

On June 1, we will have a final retreat to share our personal credos so we can author one together and plan the June 9 Pentecost worship service.

We don't yet know how many of our class will feel moved to join the church at this time, but we have enjoyed the journey. Each youth has brought a lot to the table with a willingness to ask questions, share personal experience, and participate as schedules have made possible. Sue and I thank all the mentors as well as parents and guardians who have supported the process, and we very much appreciate your prayers.

We hope you'll be present on June 9 to welcome our new members and to congratulate all nine youth for sharing this part of their faith journey with one another and with the rest of the First Church family. Come after worship to Zimmerman Hall to share some cake before the Pride Parade, or stay for a potluck lunch!

Peace, Lynn!

WELCOME: JOANNE FARRELL



At its meeting on May 8, the Board of Elders reactivated the membership of Joanne Farrell at her request. Joanne is the daughter of Shirley Farrell and has found her way back into the life of the First Church in Albany since her mother's death. Joanne feels passionate about the progressive preaching and ministry at First Church and has recently begun as a volunteer in the Food Pantry. She looks forward to other ways of getting involved and living out her faith. Joanne lives in Rensselaer with her husband, John. She is the mother of four adult children. Please make a point of welcoming Joanne when you see her next.



AT HOME WITH THE WORD

Daily Bible Readings from the Common Lectionary

June 1st – June 30th. Now available online at: www.rca.org/resources/home-word

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. John 17:20-26 | 17. 1 Kings 19:1-15 |
| 2. Seventh Sunday after Easter | 18. Psalms 42-43 |
| 3. Acts 2:1-13 | 19. Isaiah 65:1-9 |
| 4. Acts 2:14-21 | 20. Psalm 22:19-28 |
| 5. Genesis 11:1-9 | 21. Galatians 3:23-29 |
| 6. Psalm 104:24-35 | 22. Luke 8:26-39 |
| 7. Romans 8:14-17 | 23. Second Sunday of Pentecost |
| 8. John 14:517, 25-27 | 24. 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 |
| 9. Pentecost | 25. Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20 |
| 10. Proverbs 8:1-4 | 26. 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 |
| 11. Proverbs 8:22-31 | 27. Psalm 16 |
| 12. Psalm 8:1-2 | 28. Galatians 5:1, 12-25 |
| 13. Psalm 8:3-9 | 29. Luke 9:51-62 |
| 14. Romans 5:1-5 | 30. Third Sunday after Pentecost |
| 15. John 16:12-15 | |
| 16. Trinity Sunday | |

CONSISTORY FOR 2019-2020

Board of Deacons

<i>Bill Kendall</i>	2021*	Robert Dorn	2020*
<i>Deborah Anderson</i>	2021	Andy Mondore	2020
<i>Erica Bliss</i>	2021		

Board of Elders

<i>Norma Jean Ballou</i>	2021*	Joeanna Brown	2020
<i>Rebecca Mondore</i>	2021*	Chip Welge	2020
<i>Tom Allison</i>	2021		

Board of Trustees

<i>Ned Monthie</i>	2022*	Shirley Bone	2020
<i>Joyce Recene</i>	2022*	David Bradley	2020
<i>Ray Van Epps</i>	2022*	Andy Mondore	2020
James Folts	2021	Ross Westhuis	2020
Wayne Sivaslian	2021		

Many thanks to those completing terms of service:

Deacons:	Theresa Brewer, Richard Gardner
Elders:	Pete Pagerey, Becky Hudak
Trustees:	William Staats, emeritus (1922 – 2018)

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

On Wednesdays at noon, prayer for the life and future of First Church will be in Clee Park as weather permits for the summer. If you are unable to be present physically, then join us by praying for the church wherever you are.

REV. CAMERON MONTHLY BRUNCH

Rev. Bill Cameron began gathering a group for lunch on the first Thursday of the month. The group continues to meet each month at the Gateway Diner, 899 Central Avenue in Albany. Anyone can join us starting at 12:15 pm and stay until you wish to leave. We all pay for our own. Contact Donna E. Schultz at deschultz07@aol.com

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee has completed the second phase of its work: Three in-person interviews with candidates for the Senior Minister Position, were held in May. In the next phase the Search Committee will be listen to two final candidates preach from neutral pulpits. Let us hope and pray together that God will guide us to the candidate he has chosen for us as Senior Minister for First Church. The Search Committee will continue to keep the congregation updated about its progress.

- Norma Jean Ballou
- Imani Brewer
- Janet Conti
- Jim Folts
- Monica Marsh
- Jean Lamere
- Andy Mondore
- Jay Reohr
- Ross Westhuis



DRIVE-IN



Drive-In worship services began on May 5th and will continue each Sunday through the first Sunday in September, except for June 30th when both the Sanctuary and Drive-In will gather in Clee Park at 10:00 am for worship. There will be no separate Drive-In worship on that day.

Worshippers gather in both the Sheridan Avenue parking lot and Clee Park for a half hour worship service led from the outdoor pulpit.

On the first Sunday of each month we celebrate Communion together--- those who are able gathering (when weather permits) in a circle in front of the pulpit to receive the bread and cup together. Others are served in their cars.

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.

DRIVE-IN OFFERING

The special offerings received at the Drive-In Worship this summer will be designated for Koinonia Primary Care/Compassion in Action, a ministry providing access to quality primary and mental health services for the underserved in West Hill and surrounding neighborhoods in Albany. Koinonia Primary Care, under the leadership of Dr. Robert Paeglow, has been serving people in Albany since 2002.

I've come to the realization that life is not designed for our comfort, or pleasure, but for us to discover our gifts and contribute what we can to make life better for others.

Dr. Robert Paeglow

We thank the Drive-In Committee, its chair Marilyn Bradley, and the hard-working Drive-In volunteers who set up each Sunday morning and greet our Drive-In Worshipers with a cheerful hello - rain or shine.

DRIVE-IN MUSICIANS: Can you help?

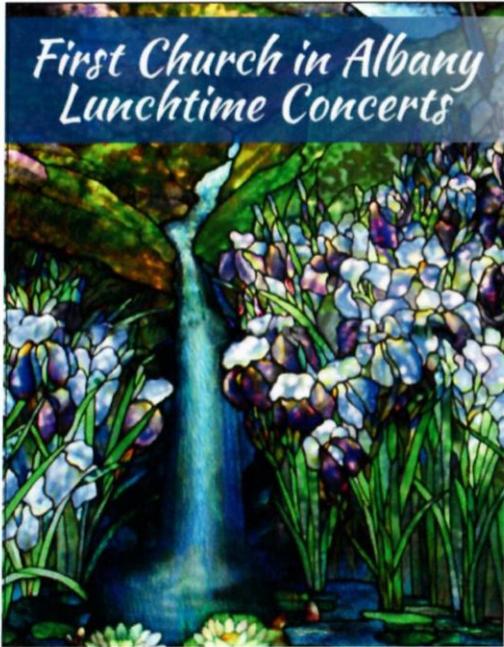
We depend on the generosity of guest musicians who supply music for our services. Do you play an instrument? sing in the shower? have a musical group that might be willing to provide the music for the Drive-in Worship Service? Anything from a simple hymn or sacred song, to an instrumental solo to a praise band is appropriate. Contact Mary Bon if you are able to be part of this ministry at maryebon@verizon.net or 463-4449.

ALBANY PRIDE 2019



On Sunday, June 9 between noon and 5pm, the Capital Pride Parade and Festival will take place. Peter Subers has agreed to gather members of First Church to carry the First Church **Room for All** banner and to march in the parade. All who want to walk should make their way to the park immediately after worship. Thank you for walking and sharing First Church's message of welcome!

SPRING FLING CONCERTS



First Church in Albany, 110 North Pearl Street, Albany NY
518-463-4449 <http://www.firstchurchinalbany.org>
Free Parking Handicapped access

Thursday, June 6 at noon
The Magnificent Organ
Neil Keen, organ

Thursday, June 13 at noon
The Passionate Cello
Erica Pickhardt, cello
(Free Hot dogs and chips served in Clee Park)

Thursday, June 20 at noon
Sophia Subbaya Vastek, pianist
playing with "passion and profound tenderness" (Second Inversion) "serene strokes and lyrical beauty" (Brooklyn Rail)
(Free Hot dogs and chips served in Clee Park)

Thursday, June 27 at noon
Americans All: Celebrating American Song
Peter Subers, baritone Gene Marie Callahan, piano
(Free Hot dogs and chips served in Clee Park)

Wednesday, July 3 at noon
Bassoon Musings
David Bon-Keen, bassoon Neil Keen, piano

Each Thursday beginning June 13th
FREE Hot dogs and chips will be available
from 11 am to 1 pm in the Park adjacent
to the church. Grab a hot dog and join us
in the church for some beautiful music.

Help us publicize the concerts!

Pick up a flyer at the Hospitality Table. Post it at your local library, bar, supermarket or wherever!

CHOIR NIGHT OUT AT MCGEARY'S JUNE 13TH



The choir is having an end of the year night out at McGeary's Thursday, June 13th at 6:00 pm.

BRING: spouses, friends, festival Choir members, potential choir members.

Everyone is welcome!

CLEEO'S HOTDOG IN CLEE PARK JULY AND AUGUST

Cleeo's Hotdogs opens Thursday, June 13. We'll be giving away hotdogs, chili dogs, chips and water to anyone who asks from 11am until 1pm every Thursday all summer. We are glad to be welcoming neighbors and to share God's love by feeding anyone who is hungry. Cleeo's Hotdogs was the brainchild of Jeffrey Curry, former assistant sexton, and ably supported by Larry Underdue, former sexton, and the First Church staff and volunteers in 2018.

To make this project successful this summer we need your help! We welcome donations of:

- HOTDOGS
- CHILI
- CONDIMENTS: ketchup, mustard and relish
- HOTDOG ROLLS
- CHIPS
- Napkins and paper towels
- Funds that can help us purchase these things.

In advance, we thank the following:

- The Food Pantry for donations of water
- Local businesses for food contributions
- Musicians who offer their gifts
- Folks who'd like to grill or serve or take pictures.



If you would like to help, please bring food or monetary donations to church and/or speak to a staff member.



FOCUS CHURCHES SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE



July 7 – First Presbyterian Church	10:00 am
August 4 – Trinity United Methodist Church	10:00 am
September 1 – Emmanuel Baptist Church	10:00am

WEATHERVANES – SUMMER BREAK!



No Weathervanes June-August

The next Weathervanes meeting will be on Wednesday, September 18th at 12:30 p.m. in Zimmerman Hall. Stay tuned for program details. See you in the fall!

FIRST CHURCH READERS GROUP – SUMMER BREAK



First Church Readers is done for the season. We will meet in September to discuss *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. Everyone is welcome.

Got a book you think would be good for summer reading? A book that you think the book group would like to read? Pass it on to Mary Bon at Marybon@verizon.net or 463-4449.

FOWLER SUMMER CAMP:

Registration for Camp Fowler in Speculator, NY is now open online at <http://www.campfowler.org/online-registration>.

Check out the Camp Fowler information in the lobby for details on the weeks available. Register early to secure your date!

Scholarships are available to First Church campers through the church and through the Albany Classis. If you would like to go to camp and need a scholarship, please speak with Pastor Lynn or Pastor Sue.

Volunteer Opportunities are available as well for those who would like to be a part of the Fowler family in a different way. Fowler needs you! Check out campfowler.org for details on how to get involved as a cabin counselor, kitchen helper and more.

FOOD PANTRY

Our Food Pantry staff and volunteers welcomed five new clients during the month of April, along with 116 neighbors who have sought food assistance in the past. In May there were nine new people in a total of 156. The food pantry continues to offer 18 meals per person per visit in a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. Our guests receive not only non-perishable goods and milk cards, but also meats, eggs, butter and fresh produce purchased through the Regional Food Bank with funds made available through your gifts and grants provided by the Food Pantries of the Capital District, Stewarts, and HPNAP.

FOCUS UPDATE:

FOCUS is in active interviews with candidates for a new Executive Director. Chip Welge is our representative on the Search Committee.

THANK YOU

- Thank you to Caroline and Carl Wirth, who donated their baby grand piano to First Church. The piano, which is currently in the chapel, was a wedding present from Caroline's parents. Caroline's mother played it at night as her children went to sleep. May this piano continue to bless those who play it and those who hear it in the same spirit of peace and love.



MEMORIALS

- In memory of William L. Staats a gift was received from Judith C. Liscum for the Music Fund
- In celebration of the life of Elizabeth “Betty” Pallone a gift has been received from Denise Lobdell for the Lynn T. Joosten Scholarship Fund.



The Deadline for the Summer issue of *FAMILY* is June 15th.





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