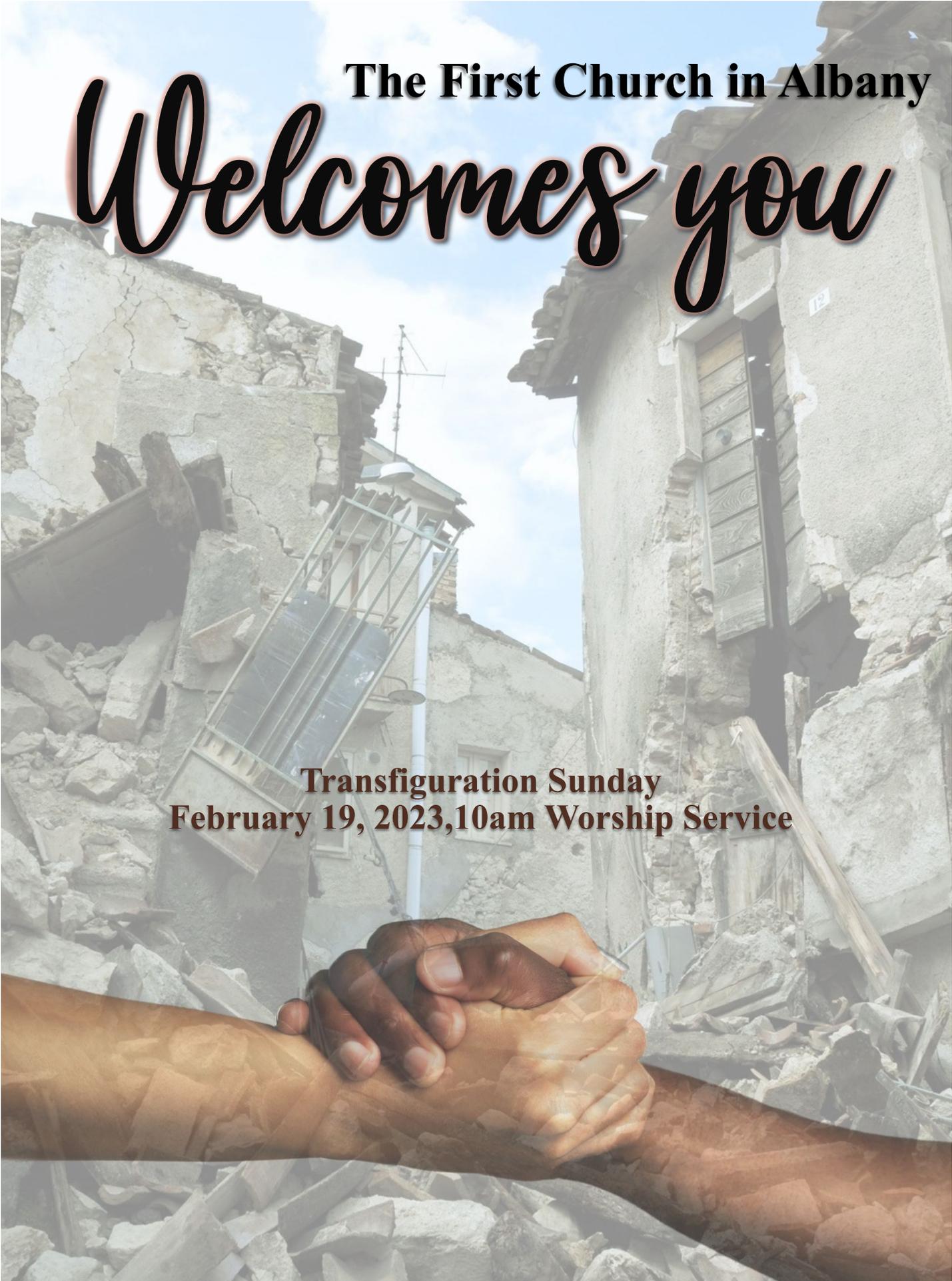


**The First Church in Albany**

# *Welcomes you*

**Transfiguration Sunday  
February 19, 2023, 10am Worship Service**



**The First Church in Albany**  
**(Reformed Church in America)**  
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 we are loved.

**Transfiguration Sunday, February 19, 2023**

**Prelude Reflection** Paul Laurence Dunbar, poet; Born: June 27, 1872 Died: February 9, 1906

“I know why the caged bird sings, ah me, When his wing is bruised and his bosom sore,- When he beats his bars and would be free; It is not a carol of joy or glee, But a prayer that he sends from his heart's deep core, But a plea, that upward to Heaven he flings- I know why the caged bird sings!”

**Prelude** Prelude and Aria” G. Young  
*Iteke Prins, organist*

**Tolling of Bell:** *bell tolled by children of First Church*

**Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing** 2 Corinthians 13:14

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” **Amen.**

**Call to Worship**

Votum: Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.  
**Amen.**

**Psalm 99**

Leader: The LORD is king; let the people tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!

**People: Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. Extol the LORD our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he!**

Leader: Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name. They cried to the LORD, and he answered them.

People: He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them. O LORD our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

ALL: Extol the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy.

## \*Opening Hymn      Jesus on the Mountain Peak

Brian Wren, 1962, 1988

MOWSLEY 7.8.7.8.4

Cyril Vincent Taylor, b. 1907

1. Je - sus on the moun-tain peak      Stands a - lone in  
 2. Trem-bling at His feet we saw      Mo - ses and E -  
 3. Swift the cloud of glo - ry came,      God pro - claim - ing,  
 4. This is God's be - lov - ed Son!      Law and proph - ets

glo - ry blaz - ing; Let us, if we dare to speak,  
 li - jah speak - ing. All the proph - ets and the law  
 in its thun - der, Je - sus as the Son by name!  
 sing be - fore Him, First and last and on - ly One.

Join the saints and an - gels prais-ing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Shout through them their joy - ful greet-ing: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Na - tions, cry a - loud in won-der: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 All cre - a - tion shall a - dore Him! Al - le - lu - ia!

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♩=88-96

## Prayer of Confession

**We need You Lord. There is so much going on in our lives, our families, our community and our world. Where do we begin? It seems that before one tragedy is addressed the earth quakes and another disaster ensues. Forgive us for forgetting that You are with us in good times and devastation. Help us to not lean on our own understanding. Every problem is not solved by pulling up our bootstraps or pretending we are in control. When our earthquakes happen we need you. The people of Israel cried out and you heard them. You hear our cries today.**

*Time of silence*

## Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law

Leader: They cried to the Lord and he answered them. Holy is He!  
**ALL: Praise to You, O Christ!**

## \*Passing the Peace



Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us greet one another with a hand-sign of peace.

Touch your thumb to the tip of your ring finger, and wave to one another. This hand-sign makes Christ's gesture of blessing in a lot of iconography in the Orthodox Tradition.

## Children's Message & Blessing

### Prayer for Illumination *Please sing*

**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Melt me. Mold me. Fill me. Use me.**

**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me!**

## Sermon Text

Isaiah 24: 7-16, 19-20, 23

The wine dries up; the vine languishes; all the merry-hearted sigh. The mirth of the timbrels is stilled; the noise of the jubilant has ceased; the mirth of the lyre is stilled. No longer do they drink wine with singing; strong drink is bitter to those who drink it. The city of chaos is broken down; every house is shut up so that no one can enter. There is an outcry in the streets for lack of wine; all joy has reached its eventide; the gladness of the earth is banished. Desolation is left in the city; the gates are battered into ruins. For thus it shall be on the earth and among the nations, as when an olive tree is beaten, as at the gleaning when the grape harvest is ended.

They lift up their voices; they sing for joy; they shout from the west over the majesty of the Lord. Therefore in the east give glory to the Lord; in the coastlands of the sea glorify the name of the Lord, the God of Israel. From the ends of the earth we hear songs of praise, of glory to the Righteous One.

But I say, "I pine away; I pine away. Woe is me! For the treacherous deal treacherously; the treacherous deal very treacherously."

The earth is utterly broken; the earth is torn apart; the earth is violently shaken. The earth staggers like a drunkard; it sways like a hut; its transgression lies heavy upon it, and it falls and will not rise again.

Then the moon will be abashed and the sun ashamed, for the Lord of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and before his elders he will be glorified.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

*When the Earth Quakes*

## A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

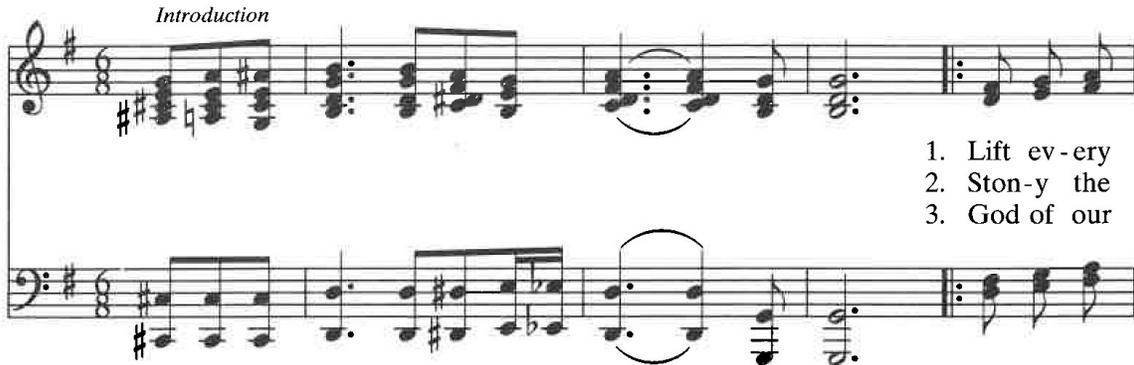
# \*Hymn of Response Lift Every Voice and Sing

LIFT EVERY VOICE Irregular

James Weldon Johnson, 1921

J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921

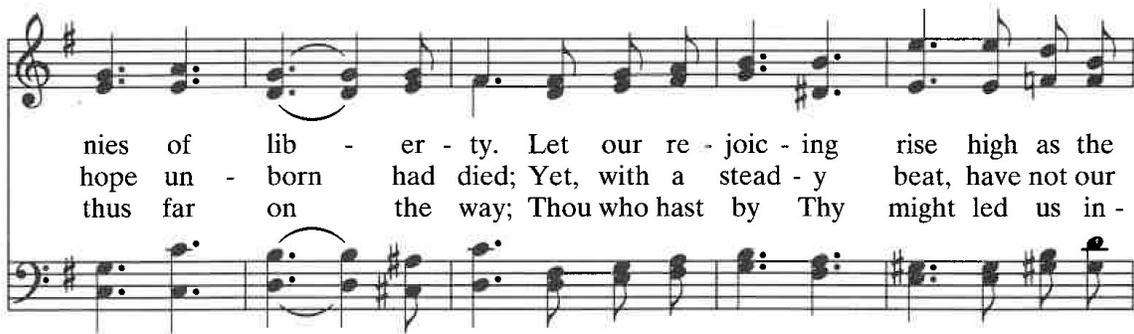
*Introduction*



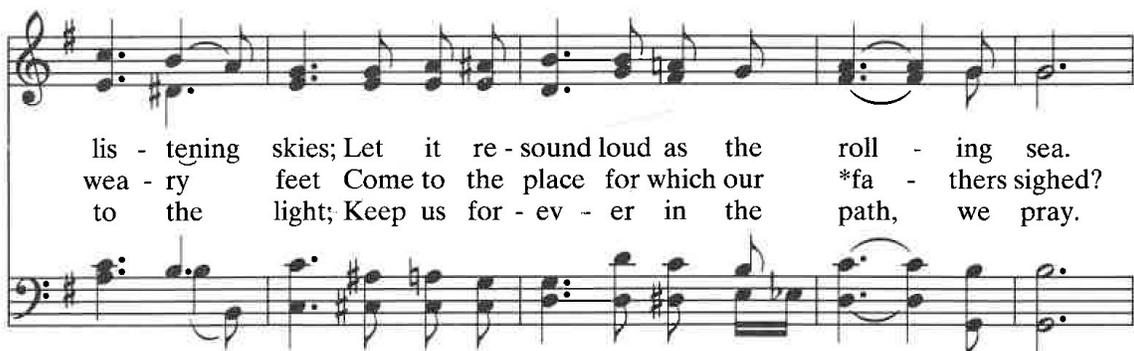
1. Lift ev - ery
2. Ston - y the
3. God of our



voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring, Ring with the har - mo -  
road we trod, bit - ter the chas - tening rod, Felt in the days when  
wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, Thou who hast brought us



nies of lib - er - ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the  
hope un - born had died; Yet, with a stead - y beat, have not our  
thus far on the way; Thou who hast by Thy might led us in -



lis - tening skies; Let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.  
wea - ry feet Come to the place for which our \*fa - thers sighed?  
to the light; Keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;  
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met Thee;

Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought  
 We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh -  
 Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get

us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be -  
 tered, Out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at  
 Thee; Shad-owed be - neath Thy hand may we for - ev - er

gun, Let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.  
 last Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.  
 stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

\*Or "parents."

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**Profession of Faith** *Apostle's Creed (translation most recently adopted by the RCA)*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**  
**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.**  
**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**  
**He descended to the dead.**  
**On the third day he rose again.**  
**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**  
**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**  
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church\*,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Tithes & Offerings:** *If you would like to connect more with the life and mission of First Church, please fill out a Welcome Card found in your pew and place it in the offering as it goes by.*

**Special Collection**

Once again, need is upon us. The Global Missions of the RCA is already on the ground helping the victims across the world suffering from earthquakes and aftershocks.

Please tell your neighbors and friends that FCIA is collecting from this Sunday until Ash Wednesday. Envelopes will be available.

As our neighbors are living in ashes across the planet may we remember them as we journey towards Ash Wednesday when we remember that from dust we come and to dust we all shall return.

**Offertory**

*“Jesu Meine Freude”  
Iteke Prins, organist*

J. S. Bach

**\*Doxology #592 in pew hymnal**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People**

Leader: O Lord,

People: Hear our 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,  
forever. Amen.**



Matthew 6:9-13

\*Sending Hymn

# I Danced in the Morning

SIMPLE GIFTS Irregular with refrain

American Shaker melody  
Harm. Sydney Carter, 1963

Sydney Carter, 1963

1. I danced in the morn - ing when the  
 2. I danced for the scribe and the  
 3. I danced on the Sab - bath and I  
 4. I danced on a Fri - day when the  
 5. They cut Me down and I

world was be - gun, And I danced in the moon and the  
 Phar - i - see, But they would not dance and they  
 cured the lame; The ho - ly peo - ple  
 sky turned black; It's hard to dance with the  
 leap up high; I am the life that will

stars and the sun, And I came down from heav - en and I  
 would not fol - low Me; I danced for the fish - er - men, for  
 said it was a shame. They whipped and they stripped and they  
 dev - il on your back. They bur - ied My bod - y and they  
 nev - er, nev - er die; I'll live in you if you'll

danced on the earth; At Beth - le - hem I had My birth.  
 James and John; They came with Me and the dance went on.  
 hung Me high, And left Me there on a cross to die.  
 thought I'd gone: But I am the dance and I still go on.  
 live in Me: I am the Lord of the Dance, said He.

*Refrain*

Dance, then, wher - ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

Dance, said He, And I'll lead you all, wher - ev - er you may be,

And I'll lead you all in the dance, said He.

## \*Charge & Blessing

### Postlude

*“Fuge in G minor”*

Jean-Jaques Charpentier

**Preacher:** Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

**Organist:** Iteke Prins

**Vocalists:** Becky Hudak & Norma Jean Ballou

**Audio/Visual:** Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr

*CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689*

**Note:** You are invited to coffee and refreshments down in Zimmerman Hall. Today will be the last of the Apostle’s Creed series starting at 11:20. “Grab some joe and get in the know!”



**There will be a brief meeting for those involved or interested in our Soup & Sandwich in Clee Park Thursday ministry. Grab your coffee after worship and head to the Parlor. There will even be a sample of the soup to share.**

## *Prayers, Joys & Concerns*

- Ian Leet
- For the Van Derwerker family as they rejoice in the baptism of Margo
- For Kathleen Claydon's sister and mother with health issues
- Kokese Ballou
- Janie Unright, friend of the Andrews family
- Carol LaBatte
- Norma McClement
- For Jennifer Recene Gallagher
- Larry McCarthy, friend of the Andrews Family
- David Bradley (it has been requested that contact be by card or email only at this time)
- For all our friends with health issues
- For Jason Shahid
- The family of Danielle, as they approach the year anniversary of her death
- Ruth and Josue Torres
- For Jim, Rose Hunsberger's father
- The Reohr Family
- Deborah Paris, daughter of Betty Pierce
- Alexis Parry, niece of Cheryl Gowie
- Gail Santimaw, friend of Judith Utley-Suess
- John Utley, brother of Judith Utley-Suess
- Judith Utley-Suess, for strength
- Ronald Stockhoff
- For Mia and Wim Westman
- For Barbara W., dear friend of Barb & Dave Andrews and Donna Jones
- Harold Bushnel
- Alex Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Cheryl Gowie
- Ralph McNeil, brother of Norma Jean Ballou
- Mary Ann Selmer
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Donna Schultz
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Clergy, staff and leaders of the First Church in Albany
- For the survivors and rescue workers in Turkey and Syria after last week's earthquake. For all who lost loved ones.
- Prayers for this burden of gun violence and its aftermath
- An end to the war in Ukraine

*Prayer Concerns? If you would like your church family to join you in prayer, please share your concerns and joys with us. Call the office at 518-463-4449 or email [office@firstchurchinalbany.org](mailto:office@firstchurchinalbany.org).*

WE ARE SO HAPPY TO HAVE YOU AS PART OF

# THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

## Family



join us for the

## ALL-MEMBERS SERIES

Starting next Sunday, February 26, 2023, and continuing through Lent, we're encouraging all those who are a part of First Church in any way to participate in our All-Members Series, which will serve as a "refresher" course on being part of a church and a new member's class for those who would like to formally join First.

*Come learn about belonging!*

## Lent 2023 Second Hour Calendar

Date:	Event:	Details:
Feb. 26, 2023 Sunday, Lent 1	After Worship: <b>All Members'</b> Class: <i>Belonging</i> Part 1	Ch. 1 & 2: What does it mean to belong, and belong to Jesus?
Mar. 5, 2023 Sunday, Lent 2	After Worship: <b>All Members'</b> Class: <i>Belonging</i> Part 2	Ch. 3: What does it mean to belong to a church?
Mar. 12, 2023 Sunday, Lent 3	After Worship: <b>All Members'</b> Class: <i>Belonging</i> Part 3	Ch. 4: What does it mean to belong to an RCA church?
Mar. 19, 2023 Sunday, Lent 4	After Worship: <b>All Members'</b> Class: <i>Belonging</i> Part 4	Ch. 5 & 6: What does it mean to belong to a local congregation?
Mar. 26, 2023 Sunday, Lent 5	After Worship: <b>All Members'</b> Class: <i>Belonging</i> Part 5	Ch. 7-9: What does it mean to belong to First Church?
Apr. 2, 2023 Palm Sunday	After Worship: Who Are Our Catechumenate?	<b>Get to know those joining First!</b> (Elders must attend)

Lent 2023 begins on Wednesday, February 22



**ash**  
Wednesday

Service with the Imposition of Ashes  
February 22, 2023  
at noon  
in the Stephen James Chapel

**ASHES-TO-GO**

Wednesday, Feb. 22  
4:30pm - 6pm



The First Church in Albany  
Sheridan Ave. Parking Lot

We need  
your help!

We are collecting Plastic Easter Eggs and Candy in preparation for this year's **Easter Egg Hunt**.

If you can contribute, please bring the items to the Workroom and leave them on the table.

Candy that is individually wrapped preferred, but we will welcome Jelly Beans as well.

**Important:** Please, no candy with nuts. Thank you!



## REFORMED CHURCH CENTER



NEW BRUNSWICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

# SLAVERY AND SOCIAL POWER IN THE DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH



### Presenters

#### Andrea C. Mosterman, PhD

Joseph Tregle Professor in Early American History  
Associate Professor | Graduate Coordinator  
Department of History and Philosophy  
University of New Orleans

#### Janice McLean-Farrell, PhD

Dirck Romeyn Assistant Professor of Metro-Urban Ministry  
Assistant Dean of Doctoral Studies  
NBTS

Thursday • February 23, 2023 • 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. • Online

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_QRPUIZNxQwyX4Pxkg3VaWg](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QRPUIZNxQwyX4Pxkg3VaWg)

# Lent Special Services

**FCIA  
2023**

## **ASH WEDNESDAY 2.22.23**

- Service in Chapel at noon
- Ashes-to-Go 4:30pm-6pm in parking lot  
Drive-up and be blessed!

## **A SPECIAL NIGHT OF WORSHIP THURS. 3.2.23**

- Potluck at 6p; worship at 7pm in the Chapel  
Come and get creative with your Lenten Journey!

## **PALM SUNDAY 4.2.23**

- Youth process with palm fronds; gather at back of  
Sanctuary before service.

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE OF SHADOWS 4.6.23**

- First Church Sanctuary 6pm

## **HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE LAST SEVEN WORDS OF CHRIST**

- Sweet Pilgrim Baptist Church 7pm (after service at First)

## **ECOLOGICAL GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE WITH REV. MARK CHAFFIN 4.7.23**

- Details TBD

## **CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES ECUMENICAL SERVICE 4.7.23**

- Details TBD

## **HOLY SATURDAY LITURGY & EUCHARIST 4.8.23**

- Cathedral of All Saints, Albany 9am

## **THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER 4.8.23**

- Cathedral of All Saints, Albany 7pm

## **FOCUS SUNRISE SERVICE 4.9.23**

- West Capital Park Time TBD

## **EASTER SUNDAY 4.9.23**

- New members join First Church during the Easter  
Worship service

Check each week for updates to the schedule.



# This Week at the First Church in Albany



★ Sunday	2.19	10am AW	Indoor Worship at FCIA, also on Zoom Apostles Creed Discussion— Zimmerman
		AW	Soup & Sandwich Ministry Meeting— Parlor
★ Monday	2.20	9am	<b>PRESIDENT'S DAY</b> <b>Office &amp; Food Pantry</b> <b>Closed for Holiday</b>
★ Tuesday	2.21		Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras
		12pm	Adult Scripture Study
★ Wednesday	2.22		<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>
		9am	Food Pantry
		12pm	AA Meeting
		12pm	Ash Wednesday Service in Chapel
		4:30pm	Ashes to Go in Church Parking Lot
★ Thursday	2.23	11:30am	Soup & Sandwiches in Clee Park
		12pm	Zoom Lecture Slavery and Social Power in Dutch Ref. Church (see p. 13)



AW = After Worship

## Updated Info

★ The 9Up ministry is now meeting every Sunday with the exception of the first Sunday of the month (Communion Sunday).

\*Meeting Schedules are subject to change. Watch your email for updates if you are a part of these gatherings.



## First Church in Albany

110 North Pearl St.,  
Albany NY 12207  
518-463-4449

[www.firstchurchinalbany.org](http://www.firstchurchinalbany.org)