

The First Church in Albany

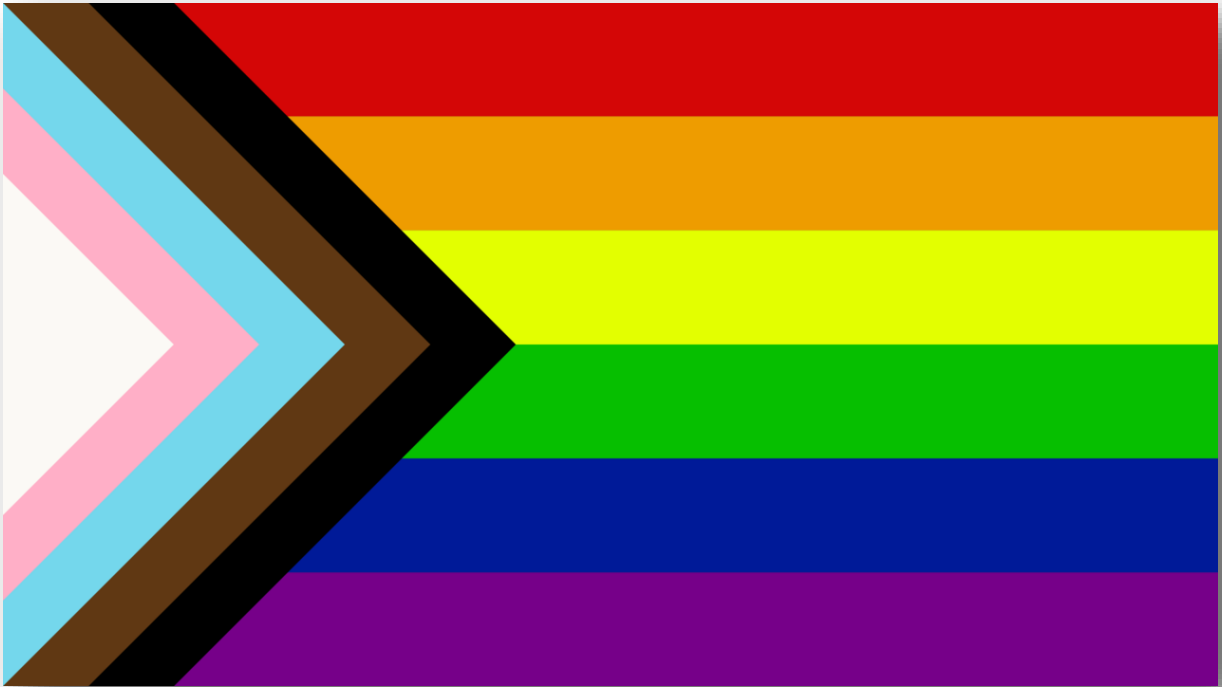
*Welcomes you*



**Pride Sunday**

**June 12, 2022, 10am  
Drive-In Worship Service**

# The Progress Pride Flag



An update to the original rainbow Pride Flag, this new Progress Pride Flag was designed in 2018 and has become the universal symbol for the collective LGBTQ+ community.

The 5 arrow-shaped stripes were added to the traditional rainbow flag to represent the diversity of the community. The black and brown stripes represent people of color within the community, while the pink, blue and white arrow shapes represent the transgender community. The blue, pink, and white also make up the Transgender Pride Flag.

# **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.*

## **Pride Sunday** **June 12, 2022**

**Tune in to 87.9FM on your car radio**

**Prelude**

*"Be Thou My Vision"*  
Margaret Randall, keyboardist

arr. V. Labenske

### **Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing**

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." 2 Corinthians 13:14

### **Call to Worship** *Based on the Heidelberg Catechism Q&A #54 & John 16:1-15*

Leader: Holy Spirit you are the One.

**People: The One who gathers, protects, and preserves all those who are children of God.**

Leader: Christ names you as our Advocate.

**People: Make yourself known to us today as the Advocate of all your children,**

Leader: advocating for the inclusion and liberation of all by "proving the world wrong"

**People: about what sin actually is, what righteousness looks like, and that we are not the judge of anyone.**

Leader: For you, Holy Spirit, guide us into all truth.

**People: Teach us today what we need to learn and what we need to remember, so that we may also become advocates for all those who are God's children.**

Leader: Let us worship this Triune God who welcomes all!

# \*Opening Hymn    The Dove Will Fly on Mended Wing    v. 1-4

Tim Reaburn

O WALY WALY  
Traditional English, harm. CJ Redden-Liotta

1., 5. Re - lig - ion, cul - ture, creed and race    each hu - man spir - it and each face  
2. And take a - way    a new found song,    a new found voice    to act on wrongs.  
3. A peo - ple stand,    a peo - ple call:    come ga - ther here    and wel - come all.  
4. And chains will fall,    the shack - les break,    the earth will rise,    and pow - ers quake,

we cel - e - brate,    we dance and sing    the tal - ents here    each one might bring.  
To trust, to heal,    to help us cope,    to stand as one,    re - new - ing hope.  
Di - ver - si - fy    and cel - e - brate    that hope - less - ness    is not our fate.  
just - ice will roll,    and free - dom sing,    the dove will fly    on men - ded wing.

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## Prayer of Confession

**Triune God who is Love, in your presence we come to truly see ourselves and our actions. And so, we confess and lament that we have resisted to act in ways harmonious with your love — ways that lead to justice, flourishing, and delight for all peoples. We confess that we have sometimes constructed and tolerated social walls that allow people to be excluded and oppressed, and at other times we have made ourselves the ones who determine who belongs. Forgive us, and send the Spirit to transform us to be people who mirror you and welcome all in love.**

## Assurance of Pardon

Friends of Jesus, the good news is this: God is Love, and we learn to love because God is the One who first loved us. Let us live in that love, and give that love to all, so that all may live in the peace of Christ. Amen.



### **\*Passing the Peace**

**Leader:** The peace of Christ be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Leader:** Let us greet one another with a honk of the horn or hand-sign of peace.



### **Prayer for Illumination**

**Holy Spirit, as we hear today's text preached, we pray the words of the Ethiopian Eunuch who said, "How can I understand, unless someone guides me?" Be our guide, and lead us into all truth. In Christ's name we pray, amen.**

### **Sermon Text**

Acts 8:26-40

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,

so he opens not his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

## Sermon

## What Prevents Me from Being Baptized?

## A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

## \*Hymn of Response I Met a Stranger On the Road & Offering

David Bjorlin

KINGSFOLD  
Ralph Vaughan Williams

1. I met a stran-ger on the road who read a book a - lone,  
2. I told the sto - ry of the Christ whose life de - nounced each wall,  
3. For when we draw our bound-ary lines di - vi - ding out from in,

whose skin was dark and lan-guage strange, whose sta - tus was un - known.  
whose love ex - pands our nar-rowed sights: the Lamb raised up for all.  
then Christ stands on the o - ther side; ex - clu - sion is our sin.

And yet he read my sa - cred text, this pil - grim from a - broad,  
And when I asked if he be - lieved, I saw my view was flawed:  
Praise God for stran-gers on the road—the diff -'rent and the odd—

and asked, "Where can I find a guide to lead me to this God?"  
we both en - coun - tered grace that day, we both were led to God.  
the pil - grim guides who take our hand and lead us back to God.



## Prayers of the People

**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.**

## \*Charge & Blessing

### Postlude

*“Somewhere Over the Rainbow”*  
*Margaret Randall, keyboardist*

arr, G. Shearing



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

*Thank you for worshiping with us today!  
You all are invited to remain with us in Clee Park for our Lemonade Lull  
and encouraged to participate in the City of Albany's Pride Celebration  
Have a blessed week!*

## Worship Leadership:

**Preacher:** Rev. Trey Tirpak  
**Liturgist:** Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston  
**Keyboardist:** Margaret Randall  
**Technical Team:** Joshua Bliss, and Stephen Reohr

# Prayer Concerns

- The friends and family of Tulla Pangburn
- The friends and family of Jean Reohr, Jay Reohr's mother
- The friends and family of Harriet Stockhoff
- Jennifer Recene Gallagher, daughter of Joyce Recene
- Becky Hudak
- Dee and Ani's grandmother Bertha
- Mia and Wim Westman
- Donna Jones
- Barbara W., dear friend of Barb & Dave Andrews and Donna Jones
- friends and family of Edward Baskerville Sr.
- John Utley, brother of Judith Utley Sues
- The friends and family of Annie Holt, daughter of First Church member Mamie Holt.
- Beverly, friend of Clarice Milliken
- Clarice Milliken in the loss of a family member
- Family and friends of Shirley Nash
- Steve Hoffman
- Harold Bushnell
- Charnelle Jones
- Frank Jeffries (son of Norma McClement)
- Rev. Susan Vincent Cox for the passing of her mother Barbara
- Norma McClement
- Becky Gardner
- Norma and Leo, neighbors of Audrey Ming
- Ralph McNeil, brother of Norma Jean Ballou
- Cheri Scully, friend of the Persons
- Family of Nathaniel Marable
- Mary Ann Selmer
- Katherine's grandmother
- Samuel, son of Barb Andrews
- The family of Danielle as they mourn her passing, for her children (Melvin, Traekwon, Antonio, Julius, Brandon, and Christopher)
- Carol LaBatte
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Jane, sister of Donna Schultze
- Elaine and Jim Jenks, Rose Hunsberger's parents
- Jeff Curry
- Haleigh Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Neil Keen
- Fran Carr Morton
- Kathy Stallmer (Monthie family)
- Cheryl Gowie
- Ada Harris
- Gwen, friend of Becky Gardner
- Charles Welge
- Olivia Gaydushek
- The RCA General Synod Meeting in Iowa
- Clergy, staff and leaders of the First Church in Albany
- For all those impacted by the ongoing instances of gun violence. For lawmakers as they debate how to move forward and stem the tide of these shootings.
- 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)*





A BOUQUET OF DIVERSITY

# ROOM FOR ALL SUNDAY 2022

Each of us has planted seeds and had others plant seeds that inspire us, shaping who we become and the path we follow. The seed that became Room for All was planted in 2005 when the Reformed Church in America (RCA) sanctioned a minister for officiating at a same-sex wedding. Led by the advocacy of the Holy Spirit, a small group of supporters looked at the LGBTQIA people in the church and recognized that these unique and diverse individuals, as intricate and precious as any flower in the garden, were integral to the body of Christ and beloved of God!

The path that began in hope-filled grief 17 years ago is today a vibrant and thriving organization, supporting, educating, and advocating for the welcome and full affirmation of people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions in the RCA and beyond. With three staff people, a volunteer board of directors, and a network of hundreds of supporters across the United States, Canada, and Japan, Room for All has continued to cultivate a garden that celebrates *all*. This bouquet of diversity includes dozens of rostered congregations, hundreds of supporting ministers, engagement with each of the RCA's five institutions, and every day new sprouts are popping up and unfurling their leaves.

We give thanks that RfA has committed to tilling the soil of the RCA and continues to preach that LGBTQIA people are included within the covenant. Rewarding and often challenging, RfA's ministry is made possible by the continued support of RfA-rostered congregations like ours. For more information on opportunities to engage with Room for All and to support this vital ministry, visit [www.RoomforAll.com](http://www.RoomforAll.com) or [www.facebook.com/RoomforAllRCA/](https://www.facebook.com/RoomforAllRCA/).



RoomforAll.com

*The First Church in Albany is a Room for All member congregation.*



FOCUS CHURCHES OF ALBANY'S  
**ANNUAL BROOKS BBQ FUNDRAISER**

**Wednesday, June 15 from 3-6 pm**  
**Delmar Reformed Church**  
 386 Delaware Ave, Delmar



**\$15 TO-GO CHICKEN DINNERS**  
 INCLUDES 1/2 CHICKEN, BAKED  
 POTATO, COLESLAW, ROLL &  
 DESSERT

**TAKE-OUT ONLY!**

PRE-ORDER ON OUR WEBSITE:  
[FOCUSCHURCHES.NET](http://FOCUSCHURCHES.NET)



OR CALL: 518-443-0460 EXT. 2

**PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE FOCUS FEEDING PROGRAMS:**  
 BREAKFAST PROGRAM / FOOD PANTRY / GARDENING PROGRAM

**Poor People's Campaign**

A NATIONAL CALL for MORAL REVIVAL

**The NYS Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival** has organized FREE seats on buses heading to Washington D.C. on June 18, 2022! There are multiple meet up locations throughout New York State. Join us!

To get on the bus visit [NYSPPC.org](http://NYSPPC.org)

**MASS POOR PEOPLE'S & LOW-WAGE WORKERS' ASSEMBLY**

**MORAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON AND TO THE POLLS**



**REGISTER TO JOIN US!**

THE  
**Lemonade LULL**  
 IS BACK!



**SUNDAYS  
 IN CLEE PARK  
 FOLLOWING THE  
 DRIVE-IN SERVICE**

Enjoy refreshments and fellowship.

If you are interested in hosting a future Lull, please contact the office at 518-463-4449 or email [office@firstchurchinalbany.org](mailto:office@firstchurchinalbany.org).





# HOT DOG THURSDAY WITH CLEEO

Our Summer Outreach to All of Our Neighbors



**Each Thursday in June  
11:30am—12:30pm  
in Clee Park**

**Volunteers Needed  
Contact the office  
or use online link in  
Wednesday's EBlast**

Help us cover those  
weeks when our  
long-time volunteers  
might be out of town  
on holiday this  
summer.

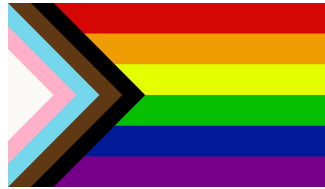
Sign up with a friend  
or family member.  
Volunteer together!




**FCIA FOOD PANTRY**  
**NEEDS VOLUNTEERS  
FOR THE SUMMER**  
Please connect with pantry  
director Lorraine Houk  
[lorraine@focuschurches.net](mailto:lorraine@focuschurches.net)  
The FCIA Food Pantry is open  
Monday and Wednesday,  
9am-11:30am

# This Week at the First Church in Albany

## June is Pride Month



- Sunday 6.12 10am Pride Sunday   
Drive-in Worship, also on Zoom
- Monday 6.13 9am Food Pantry
- Tuesday 6.14 12pm Adult Scripture Study  
6:30pm Leadership Meeting
- Wednesday 6.8 9am Food Pantry  
12pm AA Meeting  
12pm Centering Prayer

## Upcoming Events

Sunday 6.19

## Juneteenth

### Fathers Day

Ordain and Install New Consistory  
Service in Clee Park for Harriet  
Stockhoff

Monday 6.20

**Office Closed** to Observe Juneteenth  
Holiday

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

GROUP & MINISTRY LEADERS, SEND US YOUR

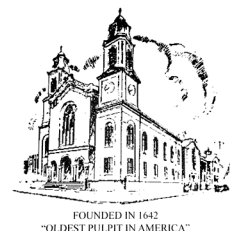
## CALENDAR UPDATES

ONE-TIME EVENTS  
OR RECURRING MEETINGS

PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE WITH YOUR  
SCHEDULED GATHERINGS SO THAT WE CAN PUT  
THEM ON THE CHURCH EVENT AND  
OPERATIONAL CALENDARS.



EMAIL  
OFFICE@FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG  
OR CALL  
518-463-4449



FOUNDED IN 1642  
"OLDEST PULPIT IN AMERICA"

## First Church in Albany

110 North Pearl St.,  
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[www.firstchurchinalbany.org](http://www.firstchurchinalbany.org)