

The First Church in Albany
Welcomes you

"And now, **LORD,**

LOOK AT THEIR THREATS.

and grant to your servants
TO SPEAK
your word
with all

BOLDNESS,..."

Acts 4:29



FOCUS
CHURCHES OF ALBANY



The First Church in Albany

Combined Focus Worship
July 3, 2022, 10am
Drive-In Worship Service



FOCUS
CHURCHES OF ALBANY

FOCUS CHURCHES OF ALBANY'S JOINT SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES

AUG. 7
@ 10 AM

DELMAR REFORMED CHURCH
BOTH IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

To join online, follow on Youtube by searching
"Delmar Reformed Church"

SEPT. 4
@ 10 AM

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

BOTH IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

Join online via Zoom at wpcalbany.org

When joining online, please provide your own communion elements
ALL ARE WELCOME!



**Wizard's
Wardrobe**

WHERE READING IS MAGIC

Yes,
summer has just started
No,
*it isn't too early to think
about the Fall.*

When school begins again,
elementary-age students in Albany's
South End could use your help.

The Wizard's Wardrobe, that does
one-on-one tutoring, will be holding its
initial 13-hour Fall Tutor Training on the
Saturdays of September 17th and 24th.

Learn about the impact that poverty
and systemic racism have on
young students.

Become prepared to strengthen their
ability to read and support them with
your relationship of caring. For more
information, click the button below or
speak with Program Director Debbie
Fagans at (518) 776-0664.

Also, the Wizard's Wardrobe is looking to hire a Chief Operating Officer. The job description for this full-time job can be found on the their website. A passion for leveling the educational playing field is needed. Pay will be commensurate with experience and skills. For more information, contact Eric Fagans at (518) 776-0664.

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.

FOCUS Joint Summer Worship

July 3, 2022

Tune in to 87.9FM on your car radio

Prelude

"Prelude in F Minor"
"We Gather Together"
Iteke Prins, keyboardist

C. Burney
arr. J. Carter

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 *A reflection on Independence Weekend in the USA and Psalm 16*

Leader: In our world full of work and toil,

People: We long for abundant life.

Leader: Under oppression and bondage,

People: We long for the Spirit of liberty.

Leader: In the busyness of our lives,

People: We long to pursue the fullness of happiness.

Leader: Triune God, remind us of the words of the Psalmist, that:

People: In you, O Lord, is all our delight.

Leader: You show us the path of life, and only in your presence

People: Is there the fullness of joy.

Leader: Let us worship the God who gives us true life, true liberty, and true happiness!

*Opening
Hymn

Let Us Build a House

v. 1,3,5

All Are Welcome

Capo 3: (A7)

(D)

(A)

(D)

(G)

(A)

(Bm)

C7

F

C

F

B^b

C

Dm



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D)

(A)

(D)

(Bm7)

(Em)

(A)

F

C

F

Dm7

Gm

C



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

(Em)

(A7)

(G)

(D)

(F#m)

(Bm)

Gm

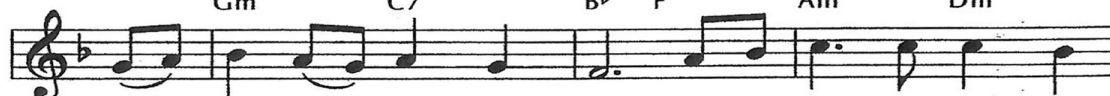
C7

B^b

F

Am

Dm



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em)

(A)

(D)

(G)

Gm

C

F

B^b



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

(D)

(G)

(F#7)

(Bm)

(Em)

(Bm)

F

B^b

A7

Dm

Gm

Dm



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m)

(Em)

(D)

(Em)

(A7)

(D)

(G)

(D)

(A7)

Am

Gm

F

Gm

C7

F

B^b

F

C7



all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

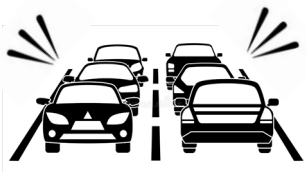
Prayer of Confession

Lord of Life, on this American Independence Weekend, we confess to living in ways that do not lead to abundant life. Many of our ways of living neglect and oppress the liberty of others in our community and nation. We even confess that we sometimes feel as though some in our country don't deserve happiness, especially those who we disagree with politically. Teach us to be *for one another: for one another's liveliness; for one another's liberty rooted in justice; for a national happiness characterized by dignity and respect. Amen.*

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, Jesus Christ came into the world not to build nations or control his neighbors; rather, Jesus Christ came into the world to bring abundant life, which he gives to those who want to follow his way. Follow in The Way of Jesus Christ, and you will find peace.

*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 you once filled Peter and John and the followers of The Way, fill us in the same way today so that we may also speak boldly of the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sermon Text

Acts 4:23-31

After [Peter and John] were released, they went to their own people and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. When they heard it, they raised their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth, the sea, and everything in them, it is you who said by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant:

‘Why did the gentiles rage
and the peoples imagine vain things?
The kings of the earth took their stand,
and the rulers have gathered together
against the Lord and against his Messiah.’

“For in this city, in fact, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the gentiles and the peoples of Israel, gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. And now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

We Are Empowered To Be Bold

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

*Hymn of Response
& Offering

v. 1 & 4

Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table!

1 Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries
2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -
3 Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand
4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to

that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;
ers ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled
dif - ferent ways, but they share one thing in com - mon:
be sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound - ed,

The musical score is written for four parts: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are written below the notes, with line numbers 1 through 4 indicating the verses.

some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in -
 with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his de -
 they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has in -
 who will o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es bread and

vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they
 ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his
 vit - ed north and south and east and west to con - verge a -
 breaks it— truth and man - na from a - bove!—and then pass - es

all are wel - come. There is room for ev - ery - one.
 fruit - less ef - forts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.
 round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.
 wine that wak - ens in your heart the taste of love.

This text celebrates the radical hospitality that characterizes Christ's welcome, which transcends time and reaches in all directions (Matthew 8:11 / Luke 13:29). Saints of old are, like us, people in need of forgiveness, and the response to such pardon is "thanks and praise."

TEXT: Thomas H. Troeger, 2000
 MUSIC: Michael Corzine, 2000
 Text © 2002 Oxford University Press
 Music © 2000 Michael Corzine

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Celebration of the Lord's Supper (Sung)

All who long to join together and follow in The Way of Jesus Christ are invited to partake in communion with him at his table where he promises to meet us, nourish us spiritually, and send us out into the world with renewed hope.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving 2

The musical score is written for guitar and voice. It features a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with guitar accompaniment in the bass staff. Chord symbols are placed above the staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Leader (G) C/G G All C/G

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Now lift up your hearts. We lift them in praise. O

G D/F# Em G/D A/C# C2

let us give thanks to the Lord. It is good and it is right, our

A C2 C/E F C/E D

joy and our de-light to give God praise at all

Am7 Dsus D C/G G C/G G

times and in all ways!

Vamp: may be played under reading

Holy and right it is,
and our joyful duty to give thanks to you
at all times and in all places,
O Lord our Creator,
almighty and everlasting God!
You created heaven with all its hosts
and the earth with all its plenty.
You have given us life and being,
and preserve us by your providence.

But you have shown us the fullness of your love
in sending into the world your Son,
Jesus Christ, the eternal Word,
made flesh for us and for our salvation.
For the precious gift of this mighty Savior
who has reconciled us to you
we praise and bless you, O God.
With your whole church on earth
and with all the company of heaven
we worship and adore your glorious name.

C/G G D/F# Em G/D A/C# C2

Oh, ho - ly are you, Lord the God of power and might; the
Ho-san - na! Bless-ed is he! Christ Je - sus, who is come, the

A C2 C/E F C/E D

an - gels veil their sight! Earth is a - flame with the
Lord's a - noint-ed one: He comes a - gain! Ho -

Am7 Dsus D C/G G C/G Vamp G

glo - ry of your name!
san - na, Lord, A - men.

Most righteous God,
we remember in this Supper
the perfect sacrifice
offered once on the cross
by our Lord Jesus Christ
for the sin of the whole world.

In the joy of his resurrection
and in expectation of his coming again,
we offer ourselves to you
as holy and living sacrifices.
Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

continued...

G D/F# Em G/D A/C# C2
 Your death, O Christ, we pro-claim. Your ris-ing cel-e-brate!
 A C2 C/E F C/E D
 Your com-ing we a-wait, to make all things new.
 Am7 Dsus D C/G G
 All glo-ry un-to you.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray,
 that the bread which we break
 and the cup which we bless
 may be to us the communion of the body
 and blood of Christ.
 Grant that, being joined together in him,
 we may attain to the unity of the faith
 and grow up in all things
 into Christ, our Lord.

And as this grain has been gathered
 from many fields into one loaf,
 and these grapes from
 many hills into one cup,
 grant, O Lord, that your whole church
 may soon be gathered
 from the ends of the earth
 into your kingdom.
 Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

F C/E D Am7 Dsus D G
 Al-le-lu-ia! Lord! A-men!

Prayers of Thanksgiving & 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** *based on Ephesians 3:20-21*

“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Postlude

*“Lead Me, Guide Me.”
Iteke Prins, keyboardist*

D. M. Akers

CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689

Worship Leadership:

Preacher: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Keyboardist and Vocals: Iteke Prins

Musician: Glenn Claydon, guitar & vocals

*Thank you for worshiping with us today!
You all are invited to remain with us in Clee Park for our Lemonade Lull*



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.

Prayer Concerns

- 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
- Charnelle Jones
- Barbara W., dear friend of Barb & Dave Andrews and Donna Jones
- John Utley, brother of Judith Utley Sues
- Beverly. friend of Clarice Milliken
- Steve Hoffman
- Harold Bushnell
- Charnelle Jones
- Frank Jeffries (son of Norma McClement)
- Norma McClement
- Becky Gardner
- Ralph McNeil, brother of Norma Jean Ballou
- Cheri Scully, friend of the Persons
- Mary Ann Selmer
- 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 Schultz
- Elaine and Jim Jenks, Rose Hunsberger's parents
- Jeff Curry
- Haleigh Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Neil Keen
- Fran Carr Morton
- Cheryl Gowie
- Ada Harris
- Gwen, friend of Becky Gardner
- Charles Welge
- Olivia Gaydushek
- 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.

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

Prayer for our returning missionaries...

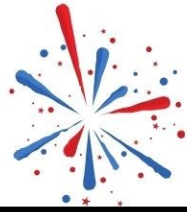
This past week, Joshua Bliss, Stephen Reohr, and Monica Marsh worked in Wethersfield, CT at this summer's Group Workcamp. They returned July 2.

They volunteered as staff, helping youth groups and high school aged students from all over as they provide residential home repairs.

Monica Marsh, on behalf of the team, would like to extend their gratitude to Andy and Rebecca Mondore for the use of their van. They would also like to thank Shirley Joosten and the Joosten Fund for sponsoring this trip.

Prayer for Our RETURNING Mission Team—*Lord, we are so grateful for the calling you have placed on the hearts of Josh, Monica, and Stephen. Help them upon their return home to be able to process all you showed them during their week of service in your name. May the people helped know your comfort because of the service of our team and so many other volunteers. We welcome them home with prayer and thanksgiving, in your mighty Name. Amen.*





The First Church in Albany

JULY 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Combined FOCUS  	4  Independence Day Office Closed for holiday	Zoom Study noon 5	6  AA 	7 A Night of Worship 7pm 	8	9
10  	11 	Zoom Study noon 12	13  AA 	14 	15	16
17  	18 	Zoom Study noon 19	20  AA 	21 	22	23 Filming of PBS MLK Jr. Doc.
24  	25 	Zoom Study noon 26	27  AA 	28 	29	30
31  						

Key:



Pantry 9am



Centering
Prayer 12pm



Drive In
Worship 10am



Lemonade
Lull



Hot Dog
Thursday



HOT DOG THURSDAY WITH CLEO

Our Summer Outreach to All of Our Neighbors



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

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


**The Winner
of the First Annual,
First Church
Lawn Chair Set-up
Competition is**

**The Always Creative
Karen Van Epps!**



This Week at the First Church in Albany



- Sunday 7.3 10am FOCUS Joint Summer Drive-in Worship, also on Zoom
- Monday 7.4  **Independence Day Holiday**
Office and Food Pantry Closed
- Tuesday 7.5 12pm Adult Scripture Study
- Wednesday 7.6 9am Food Pantry
12pm AA Meeting
12pm Centering Prayer
- Thursday 7.7 11:30am Hot Dog Thursday in Clee Park
7pm A Night of Worship (potluck at 6pm)

Upcoming Events

- Wednesday 8.17



First Church in Albany's 380th Anniversary *(We will fully celebrate on Reformation Sunday in October)*

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.



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OR CALL
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"OLDEST PULPIT IN AMERICA"

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