



The First Church in Albany *Welcomes you*

**September 4, 2022
10am Drive-In
Worship Service**

Many thanks to all who served and participated in a wonderful season of Drive-In Worship. We return to indoor worship next Sunday, September 11 at 10am.

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.

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost **September 4, 2022**

Tune in to 87.9FM on your car radio

Prelude

"Gabriel's Oboe"
Iteke Prins, keyboardist

arr. I. Prins

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing

I stand at the door and knock. If anyone opens the door, I will come in and sup with them and they with me. *Revelation 3:20*

Call to Worship *Psalm 1*

Leader: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked or take the path that sinners tread or sit in the seat of scoffers,

**People: but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night.**

Leader: They are like trees
planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.

**People: The wicked are not so
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,**

Leader: for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

***Opening Hymn**

Uyai mose/Come, All You People

PSALM 66

E A/E E

Shona 1 U - ya - i mo-se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri; u - ya - i
English 1 Come, all you peo-ple, come and praise your Mak - er; come, all you
 2 Come, all you peo-ple, come and praise the Sav - ior; come, all you
 3 Come, all you peo-ple, come and praise the Spir - it; come, all you

E/B B7 E

mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri; u - ya - i mo - se,
 peo - ple, come and praise your Mak - er; come, all you peo - ple,
 peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior; come, all you peo - ple,
 peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it; come, all you peo - ple,

A/E E B7 3 E

ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri; u - ya - i mo - se Zvi - no.
 come and praise your Mak - er; come now and wor - ship the Lord.
 come and praise the Sav - ior; come now and wor - ship the Lord.
 come and praise the Spir - it; come now and wor - ship the Lord.

For another setting of Ps. 66 see 495

Words: st. 1 Alexander Gondo (20th c., Zimbabwe), tr. I-to Loh (b. 1936) © 1986 World Council of Churches;
 st. 2-3 from *With One Voice*, 1995, © Augsburg Fortress
 Music (UYAI MOSE 5.6.5.6.5.6.7): Alexander Gondo © 1986 World Council of Churches; arr. John L. Bell
 (b. 1949) © 1993 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland, GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive
 North American agent

Prayer of Confession

Dear Lord, we acknowledge too often we come up with plans and strategies without consulting you. We lean on our own understanding and follow the paths that are wise in our own eyes. Then we find ourselves in entanglements like sheep caught in the jaws of a wolf or the wires of a fence. Help us to travel the road with you as our Shepherd. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

Silence

Words of Assurance Deuteronomy 30:16

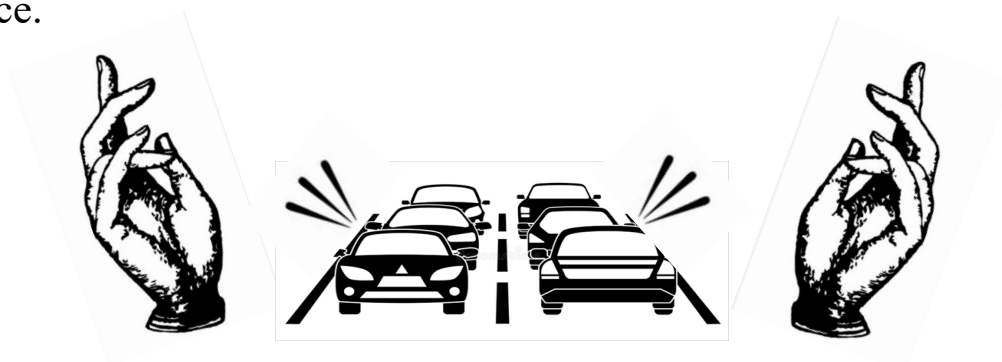
If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing God's commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess.

*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

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

Jeremiah 18:1-11

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: “Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.” So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will pluck up and break

down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you, from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Potter’s House



A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

Hymn of Response & Offering

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

F B \flat F B \flat C7 F B \flat



1 Lord, whose love in hum - ble ser - vice bore the weight of
2 Still your chil - dren wan - der home - less; still the hun - gry
3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion till your love's re -
4 Called through wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear

F/C C7 F B \flat F B \flat C7



hu - man need, who up - on the cross, for - sak - en,
cry for bread; still the cap - tives long for free - dom;
veal - ing light in its height and depth and great - ness
name we go, to the child, the youth, the a - ged,

F B \flat F/C C7 F



worked your mer - cy's per - fect deed, we, your
still in grief we mourn our dead. As you,
dawns up - on our quick - ened sight, mak - ing
love in liv - ing deeds to show. Hope and

B \flat F/C C F



ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a -
Lord, in deep com - pas - sion healed the sick and
known the needs and bur - dens your com - pas - sion
health, good - will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and

lone, but heart, con - se - cra - ting to your
 freed the soul, use the love your Spir - it
 bids us bear, stir - ring us to tire - less
 peace we give, that your ser - vants, Lord, in

pur - pose ev - every gift that you im - part.
 kin - dles still to make your peo - ple whole.
 striv - ing, your a - bun - dant life to share.
 free - dom may your mer - cy know, and live.

Words: Albert F. Bayly (1901-1984), alt., © 1988 Oxford University Press, reproduced by permission of Oxford University Press
 Music (PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7 D): J. Leavitt's *Christian Lyre*, 1830; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906, P.D. in North America, used by permission of Oxford University Press for other territories.

Communion Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

*“Giga” from 3rd Sonata in E minor
Jakqueline Wright, flutist*

Michel Blavet

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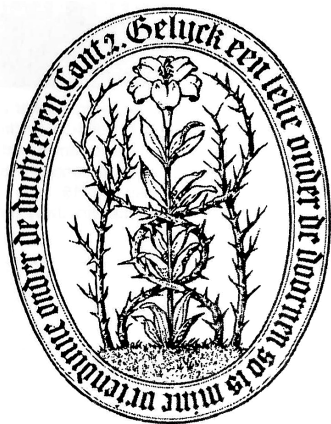
Worship Leadership:

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Keyboardist: Itke Prins

Musician: Jakqueline Wright, flutist

Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr



Happy 380th Birthday, First Church! From Albany's First Church and Its Role in the Growth of the City, by R. Alexander. *“Domine Megapolensis preached his first sermon in the colony on Sunday, August 17, 1642.”...and the rest, as they say, is history.*

The First Church in Albany celebrates its 380th Anniversary. We will be celebrating that milestone on Reformation Sunday, October 30th.

Stay tuned for details!!!

Prayer Concerns

- Mary Bon and family as they grieve Neil Keen's passing
- Shirley Joosten
- Ronald Stockhoff
- Jennifer Recene Gallagher, daughter of Joyce Recene
- Mia and Wim Westman
- Barbara W., dear friend of Barb & Dave Andrews and Donna Jones
- Steve Hoffman
- Harold Bushnell
- Norma McClement
- 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
- Jeff Curry
- Alex Bliss
- Fran Carr Morton
- Cheryl Gowie
- Ada Harris
- Gwen, friend of Becky Gardner
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Clergy, staff and leaders of the First Church in Albany
- Prayers for this burden of gun violence and its aftermath. We pray that cooler heads will prevail in discussions and decisions, for management of the situation.
- 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

Staff Notes: Rev. Trey Tirpak returns from a time of study and vacation after Labor Day. Office Manager Colleen Lais will be on vacation through September 11. Rose Hunsberger will be filling in for the week from 9am-2pm.

Rev. John Paarlberg asked us to share this invite. Joshua Vis, church engagement facilitator for Israel/Palestine for the RCA will be at the screening. His name may be familiar to us as First Church has been a supporter of his ministry.



The Law and the Prophets

A documentary film on the Israeli occupation of Palestine

Saturday, September 10, 2 p.m., at the Madison Theatre

1036 Madison Ave, Albany, NY

Since June 1967, Israel has controlled, in one way or another, the lives of the Palestinians living in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Over the course of fifty years, this control has become more sophisticated, more systematic, and harder to recognize.

[The Law and the Prophets](#) is a feature documentary that amplifies the voices of the brave, determined individuals, both Palestinian and Israeli, who are trying to expose the destructive, unjust, and sometimes invisible ways in which Israel exploits and oppresses Palestinians. Their voices deserve to be heard.

The director, Joshua Vis, will be present for a time of Q. & A following the screening. Joshua is a Church Engagement Facilitator for Israel/Palestine for the Reformed Church in America. He leads immersion tours to Israel/Palestine to deepen participants' engagement with scripture and with the people who are living under the occupation.



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.

COME JOIN US

for a

night of worship

A CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP
OPPORTUNITY AT THE FIRST
CHURCH IN ALBANY

THE
STEPHEN JAMES
CHAPEL

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 7PM

POTLUCK IN THE PARLOR AT 6PM
WORSHIP SERVICE WITH CONTEMPORARY MUSIC.
FOLLOWED BY A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP.

This Week at the First Church in Albany

- Sunday 9.4 10am Drive-in Worship at FCIA, also on Zoom
- Monday 9.5
Labor Day Holiday
Pantry and Office Closed
- Tuesday 9.6 12pm Adult Scripture Study—On hiatus through August
- Wednesday 9.7 9am Food Pantry
12pm AA Meeting
12pm Centering Prayer
- Thursday 9.8 6pm Potluck
7pm A Night of Worship

Upcoming Events

- Sunday 9.11 10am Return to indoor worship in the Sanctuary

*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

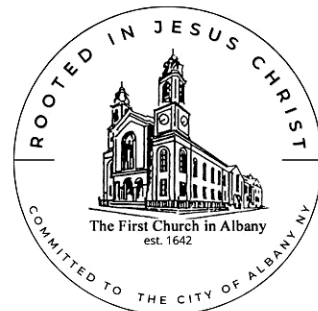
CALENDAR UPDATES

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



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