

# The First Church FAMILY

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*The First Church in Albany • Founded in 1642  
Reformed Church in America*  
**Summer 2018**

## **From the Interim Pastor**

Dear Members and Friends,

In Ecclesiastes, a God-shaped truth of our lives begins: “To everything there is a season....” While the church declares we are in the season of the Pentecost Spirit, we also find ourselves leaning into the warm, bright season of summer. Some things slow down giving us time to rest, reflect and plan so our lives, like the fields, can bear fruit.

This summer at First Church summer offers us space to grow and evolve.

- The Search Committee: Norman Jean Ballou, Imani Brewer, Janet Conti, Jim Folts, Jean Lamere, Monica Marsh, Andy Mondore, Jay Reohr and Ross Westhuis, have held their first meeting to get their bearings for the journey ahead. Commissioned in worship on June 10, they will need our prayers to help them be attentive to the Spirit’s movement among them, in the congregation and with candidates.
- FOCUS Churches join us in worship on July 1. I hope you will be present to share in communion with and offer hospitality to our ecumenical partners in ministry. August 1, we will worship at Delmar Reformed, and September 2 at Westminster Presbyterian. After each service all are invited to a conversation about FOCUS, strengthening relationships and our future direction as we step into the next 50 years together. On July 1, we’ll meet in the choir room!

- As Drive-in worship continues at 9 am, our indoor worship services at 10 am moves to James Chapel July 8 through August 29. As we worship in this more intimate (and air-conditioned) space, let us also listen to what God might be saying about what the chapel might become in both appearance and use.
- Cleo's Hotdogs kicks off on July 12! All are welcome to come to serve or to eat between 11am and 1pm on Thursdays through August 30. If you are not able to come but want to participate, contributions of condiments and paper cups, or funds to purchase them, are welcome!
- Your staff is hard at work planning programs for the coming year: a Sunday bible study on the Psalms, a Confirmation program for older youth, an All-Church Retreat at Camp Fowler, the annual financial campaign, and more. If you are interested in helping with any of these, please be in touch with Sue or me!

Perhaps you will be away for part or even most of the summer. I know I am looking forward to two July weeks in Maine for vacation and one August week in Minneapolis teaching interim ministry. No matter where we are, may our prayers include First Church, that God will continue to be with us, guiding, comforting, challenging us. Let's pray as well for those who will gather to worship on North Pearl Street, welcoming visitors and opening their lives to serve in Christ's name.

Enjoy this perfect season God gives!

Peace,

Lynn

## **ORDINATION JULY 22**

Congratulations are in order for Betsy Dorn Westman on her upcoming Ordination to Minister of Word and Sacrament. The Ordination will be held at Canajoharie Reformed Church on Sunday, July 22 at 4 pm. Betsy is the daughter of Gertrude Dorn and the late Robert Dorn, sister of Bob Dorn (Assistant Senior Deacon) and Stephen Dorn and daughter-in-law of Wim and Mia Westman. Betsy was confirmed at First Church in Albany and was a member of the choir, youth group leader and on staff (paid and volunteer) at Camp Fowler. Betsy has been called to be the Minister at Theresa Presbyterian Church located in Theresa, NY (north of Watertown, NY). First Church in Albany will be giving Rev. Westman a stole made by Cindy Barton (sister of Becky Mondore) in celebration of her ordination. Feel free to send cards of blessing to Rev. Westman (can send to Gert Dorn or Becky Mondore).

## **FOCUS CHURCHES OF ALBANY SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

First Church in Albany, Sunday July 1<sup>st</sup> @ 10:00 a.m.

Delmar Reformed, Sunday August 5<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 a.m.

Westminster Presbyterian, Sunday September 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 10:00 a.m.

## **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.

## **SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

### **July 1**

9:00 Drive-in Worship and Communion; Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden, preaching

10:00 Worship and Communion; Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden, preaching

### **July 8**

9:00 Drive-in Worship; Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden, preaching

10:00 Worship; Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden, preaching

### **July 15**

9:00 Drive-in Worship; Rev. Susan Vincent-Cox, preaching

10:00 Worship; Rev. Susan Vincent-Cox, preaching

### **July 22**

9:00 Drive-in Worship; TBD

10:00 Worship; TBD

### **July 29**

9:00 Drive-in Worship; Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden, preaching

10:00 Worship; Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden, preaching

### **August 5**

9:00 Drive-in Worship and Communion; Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden, preaching

10:00 FOCUS Worship and Communion @ Delmar Reformed Church

### **August 12**

9:00 Drive-in Worship; Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden, preaching

10:00 Worship; Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden, preaching

### **August 19**

9:00 Drive-in Worship; Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden, preaching

10:00 Worship; Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden, preaching

### **August 26**

9:00 Drive-in Worship; Rev. Renee Hollinshed, preaching

10:00 Worship; Rev. Rev. Renee Hollinshed, preaching

### **September 2**

9:00 Drive-in Worship and Communion; Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden, preaching

10:00 FOCUS Worship and Communion @ Westminster Presbyterian Church

## **At Home with the WORD**

### **Daily Bible Readings from the Common Lectionary**

**July 1<sup>st</sup> - July 31<sup>st</sup> Now available online at: [www.rca.org/resources/home-word](http://www.rca.org/resources/home-word)**

1. Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
2. 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
3. Psalm 48
4. Ezekiel 2:1-5
5. Psalm 123
6. 2 Corinthians 12:2-10
7. Mark 6:1-3
8. Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
9. 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12-19
10. Psalm 24
11. Amos 7:7-15
12. Psalm 85:8-13
13. Ephesians 1:3-14
14. Mark 6:14-29
15. Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
16. 2 Samuel 7:1-14
17. Psalm 89:20-37
18. Jeremiah 23:1-6
19. Psalm 23
20. Ephesians 2:11-2
21. Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
22. Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
23. 2 Samuel 11:1-15
24. Psalm 14
25. 2 Kings 4:42-44
26. Psalm 145:10-18
27. Ephesians 3:14-21
28. John 6:1-21
29. Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
30. 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13
31. Psalm 51:1-12

## **At Home with the WORD**

### **Daily Bible Readings from the Common Lectionary**

**August 1<sup>st</sup> - August 31<sup>st</sup> Now available online at: [www.rca.org/resources/home-word](http://www.rca.org/resources/home-word)**

1. Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15
2. Psalm 78:23-29
3. Ephesians 4:1-16
4. John 6:24-35
5. Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
6. 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33
7. Psalm 130
8. 1 Kings 19:4-8
9. Psalm 34:1-8
10. Ephesians 4:25-5:2
11. John 6:35, 41-51
12. Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
13. 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14
14. Proverbs 9:1-6
15. Psalm 111
16. Psalm 34:9-14
17. Ephesians 5:15-20
18. John 6:51-58
19. Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
20. 1 Kings 8:22-30, 41-43
21. Joshua 24:1-2
22. Psalm 84
23. Psalm 34:15-22
24. Ephesians 6:10-20
25. John 6:56-69
26. Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
27. Song of Solomon 2:8-13
28. Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9
29. Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
30. Psalm 15
31. James 1:17-27

## **SEARCH COMMITTEE COMMISSIONED:**

(L to R) Jean Lamere, Ross Westhuis, Norma Jean Ballou, Imani Brewer, Monica Marsh, Janet Conti, Jay Reohr, Jim Folts, Andy Mondore



## **PRIDE 2018**

We made a splash at the Albany 2018 Pride Parade!



Thank you to Peter Subers for organizing First Church marchers.

# **Our School Supply Program at First Church is fast approaching!**

**We are distributing August 21<sup>st</sup>**

**The food pantry is in need of these items to help our families send their children off well stocked with school supplies:**

**1, 2, 3, 5 Subject Notebooks**

**Post it notes**

**Index cards**

**Highlighters**

**Pens-Pencils (#2) – Pencil Sharpeners – Pencil Erasers – Pencil Boxes**

**Crayons**

**Markers –Dry Erase Markers – Colored pencils - Highlighters**

**Rulers**

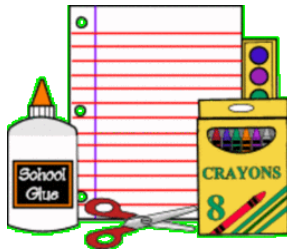
**Loose Notebook paper**

**2 pocket Folders – All colors**

**Composition Notebooks – All Colors**

**Back Packs**

**3 Ring Binders**



**Please drop off all donations by Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Thank-you for all you do!**

# THE CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES



**Mobile Program!**  
**FREE Lunches: 4 Kids & Teens!**

**IN THE WEST HILL  
NEIGHBORHOOD**

**Tuesdays & Thursdays**  
**11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**  
**June 26<sup>th</sup> – August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018**



**Sponsored by:**

The Capital Area  
Council of Churches

**Any Questions?**

**Call: (518) 462 - 5450**



## **JOIN THE CHOIR FOR THE FOCUS SERVICE JULY 1 AT FIRST CHURCH**

The Focus Service is coming to First Church on July 1 and we will have a mass “Festival Choir” to enrich our worship together. You’ll get a chance to meet singers from other Focus Churches who share a love of music. You don’t need any previous choir experience. Just come at 9:00 AM on Sunday, July 1st to rehearse; then sing with the choir for the 10 AM service. The music will be easy and the fellowship fun! Talk to any choir member or Mary Bon for more information, or just join us on July 1. Pass the word and sing for the fun of it!



## **SPRING FLING CONCERTS THANK YOU!**



We had a great time at our third annual series of June Spring Fling Concerts. Thanks to all who participated:

June 7 Mary Bon, Organist;

June 13 David Bon-Keen, bassoon  
and Neil Keen, piano;

June 20 Peter Subers, baritone,  
Gene Marie Callahan, piano;

June 27 Rose Hunsberger, soprano, Irina  
Tikhonenko, mezzo-soprano,  
Michael Clement, piano.



And thanks to all who came to listen. Each year our audiences have grown and most of our guests come from the wider community beyond First Church.

## **FIRST CHURCH FOOD PANTRY**

In May, the Food Pantry was open seven days, serving 154 households. A total of 228 individuals each received enough food for 18 meals. We thank our tireless volunteers our donors, and our staff for making this outreach possible.

## **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 12:15pm and stay until you wish to leave. Each person pays for their own meal. Contact Donna E. Schultz at [deschultz07@aol.com](mailto:deschultz07@aol.com) or (518) 429-1255.

## **CLEEO'S HOTDOG THURSDAY'S IN CLEE PARK JULY AND AUGUST**

First Church will be offering **free Chili dogs or plain hotdogs** each Thursday from 11 am – 1pm in Clee Park beginning July 12th.

**COME MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS!** Everyone is welcome!

First Churchers, Locals, Park visitors, Families, Neighbors, Downtown workers,  
Food pantry guests.



### **HELP WITH THIS MINISTRY!**

Distribute the dogs

Help with set up

Help with cleanup

Just sit and chat

### **PROVIDE SUPPLIES! We Need:**

chili,

ketchup,

relish,

mustard,

pickles,

chips,

napkins,

cups,

water.

Monica Marsh is soliciting Hot Dog Rolls from Stewarts.

### **PASS THE WORD**

**Pick up a flyer at the hospitality table and post it.**

For those interest in participating in this ministry, please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the hospitality table or talk to Jeff, Larry, or any of the staff.

**YOUTH MISSION TRIP  
ERIE, PA  
7/15-7/21/18**

The Youth Group will be repairing homes for needy residents in Jesus' name and building long-lasting friendships and memories. Through the week, we will be giving up certain luxuries (bed, air-conditioning, hot showers, etc.) to live in close quarters with up to 400 other participants, working each day painting and/or building wheelchair ramps/porches for residents that cannot afford these repairs or cannot do the work themselves. A big part of the week is allowing Jesus to shine through us to others and letting him do work in us through daily devotions and worship programs. It will be an adventure!

Please keep us in your prayers, Imani Brewer, Mackenzie Brewer, Caleb Brewer, Saniyah Bell, Josh Bliss, Kaylin Bliss, Haleigh Bliss, Kenny Jackson, Stephen Reohr, Kokese Ballou, Andy Mondore & Monica Marsh

**INTER-GENERATION WEEKEND AT CAMP FOWLER**



First Church in Albany is planning an intergenerational long weekend at Camp Fowler. The dates are Friday October 26 and ending with Worship on Sunday, October 28, 2018. We will be staying in Chi Ro and food will be prepared by the staff.

We will have opportunities for community building, time for reflection, Bible study, hiking, and just rest and enjoy the splendor of the Adirondacks.

This will be a great opportunity to learn and share stories with other members of the Church. The cost of the weekend will be \$160 per person, which includes food and lodging. Scholarships are available.

We need at least 15 committed people to make this a go! If you have questions, please see or call Jay Reohr at (518) 449-5283. You may also place your name and contact information on the sign-up sheet on the display table in the lounge.

## FIRST CHURCH READERS GROUP



First Church Readers are a group of people who love to read. Each month we read a different book and get together on a Sunday after worship to discuss it. The book group will not meet during the summer. Meetings will resume this fall. The group has already chosen books for the fall and each month a different member of the group will be helping to facilitate the discussion. Come join us.

**September** *No ordinary time: Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. The title says it all: an in depth look at the home front during WW II by noted historian Doris Kearns Goodwin, author of last year's summer read, "*Team of Rivals.*"

**October:** *The Rosie Project: A Novel (Don Tillman Book 1)* by Graeme Simsion. Don Tillman, a brilliant but socially inept professor of genetics, decides he has gotten to the age where he needs a wife. In the orderly, evidence-based manner he designs the Wife Project, a sixteen-page, scientific survey to find his perfect partner:, including identifying and filtering out drinkers, smokers, and people who arrive for appointments either too late or too early. Rosie fits none of the criteria but, nonetheless, she keeps turning up in his life with hilarious consequences.

**November:** *Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II* by Liza Mundy. More than 10,000 girls were recruited to do the secret work of breaking codes in WW II. Their work was forgotten and their sacrifices were unsung until this highly readable, well-researched and documented story.

## BOOKS FOR SUMMER READING

- *American Jezebel: The Uncommon Life of Anne Hutchinson, the Woman Who Defied the Puritans* by Eve Laplante.
- *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor.
- *Days of Awe and Wonder: How to Be a Christian in the Twenty-first Century* by Marcus J. Borg.

## **THANK YOU:**

### **FOR THE CHOIR PARTY**

To Ian, Edi, and Becca Leet for hosting a wonderful choir party filled with tasty food, good friends, great conversation, and a lot of joy, laughter and fellowship.

### **FOR CLEE PARK CLEAN-UP**

On Saturday morning, June 23, members and friends were invited to help with a clean-up of Clee Park: trimming, mulching, weeding, edging. Many thanks to Jim Folts for organizing, and to Ray Van Epps, Carol and Phil LaBatte and Brad Jones and his sons for their hard work. The park looked great for worship on Sunday, and for all who use Clee Park on a regular basis to sit, eat, visit and meditate.

Thank you, as well, to all who helped set up for worship in the park and picnic on June 24, and to all who helped pick up after a lovely time of feasting and fellowship!

### **TO THE CHOIR**

After the July 1 Focus Service at First Church, our choir will be taking a break for the summer. Much of the choir's service is hidden. Each week they rehearse Thursday nights, come early Sunday morning, and enrich our worship through music. They bring their hard work, musical gifts, dedication and time to this ministry, and reap the rich rewards of fellowship, joy of singing, and a deepening relationship with, and service to God. We all enjoy the fruits of their labors each Sunday in the beautiful music which enriches our worship and deepens our faith. Thank you, Choir!

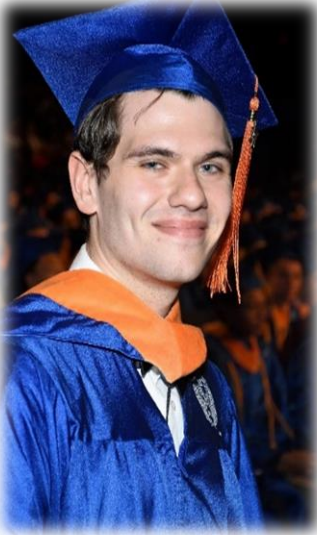
### **FOR DONATIONS**

Thank you to Capital Roots for their donation of vegetables to the Food Pantry. We also thank Bethany Reformed Church for their donation of groceries to the Food Pantry.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Jay and Kim Reohr on the arrival of their grandson, Logan Ryan Reohr, on June 27, 2018. The new parents are Shannon and Daniel Reohr.

## CONGRATULATIONS 2018 GRADUATES!



Sam Dedes graduated in May from the University of Buffalo with Honors in Mechanical Engineering. Sam is the son of Dave and Barbara Andrews.



Joshua Bliss graduated from Albany High School on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Josh will attend HVCC in the fall.



## **MEMORIALS**

- In memory of Leona Murray a gift has been received from Patti & Tom Williams for the General Fund

## **IN SYMPATHY**

- Our prayers and sympathy are with the Rev. W. Ross Westhuis and family on the death of his brother Bruce Westhuis.
- Our prayers and sympathy are also with Donna Schultz and family on the death of her nephew Sean J Miller.

**The deadline for the September issue of *FAMILY* is August 15**

## **JOINING FIRST CHURCH**

Does it feel like First Church could be your church home? Might you consider membership? If so, please talk with Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden, Rev. Sue Vincent-Cox, or one of the Elders to find out more. We'll be holding our next new member class in the fall – but you are welcome to start the conversation now. We'd love to welcome you officially!

## **REMINDER** **MONTHLY NEWSLETTER UPDATE**

We plan to move to an online newsletter beginning September 2018. If we do not have your email address, please send it to Valerie Williams at [vwilliams@firstchurchinalbany.org](mailto:vwilliams@firstchurchinalbany.org) . If you do not have an email address we will mail you a paper copy of the monthly newsletter.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUIRED