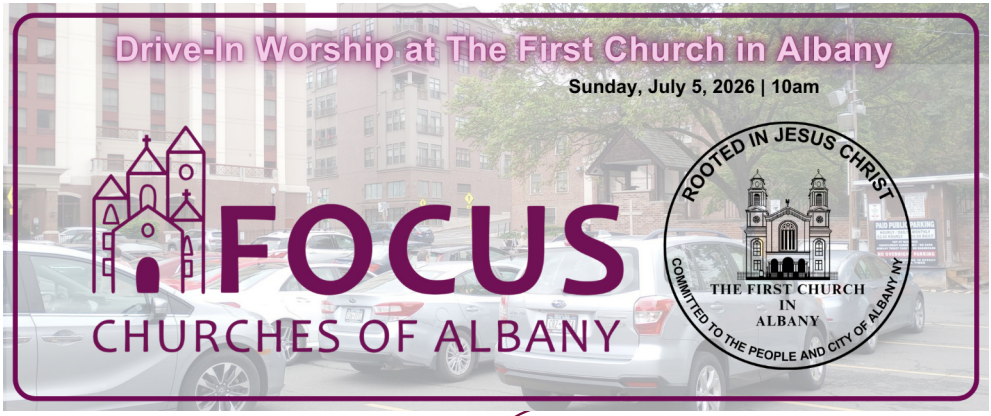


Welcome

to the First Church in Albany

Radio Station **87.9 FM**

Prelude **"***After the Last Tear Falls"*
Andrew Peterson

Welcome and Announcements

Blessing

Call to Worship (Psalm 95:1-3, 6)

Leader: O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

People: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

Leader: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

People: O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

***Opening Hymn**
"Leaning On the Everlasting Arms"
See insert

RCA 2026 Statement on the Doctrine of Christian Nationalism

Pastor: We, the delegates to the 219th General Synod of the Reformed Church in America, declare the doctrine of Christian Nationalism to be opposed to the gospel of Christ.

We believe:

Leader: God governs this world through both church and state. The church is to affirm authentic faith and show fruits of the Spirit, seeking wholeness and care for everyone. The state is to work for the safety, security, and peaceful order of all those under its care. Full humanity is both spiritual instructing us in faith and righteousness and political educating us to be citizens. We must not misapply to politics God's call to spiritual freedom.

People: The church must invite the state to greater nobility, freeing the enslaved, relieving the oppressed, comforting the afflicted.

Pastor: We have a necessary voice in the public debate but, as Christ's body, gathered around Word and sacrament, we must not conflate national identity with God's reign, lest we mute our prophetic voice and replace discipleship to Jesus Christ with political ambition.

Leader: Belong to Jesus Christ, not to anyone or anything else. We are called to influence the public square through persuasion rather than coercion, to work for unity among all people and nations, to reconcile everyone, and to stand in God's Spirit without the corrupting influence of temporal power. Christian Nationalism represents a false church, fundamentally distorting the gospel.

People: Trusting in our Triune God, we call on all Christians to renounce this error and work for justice, wholeness, and peace for all.

Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

Psalm 145:8-14

Leader: Forgive us, Creator God, when we condemn with words, but often mirror in action.

A Moment of Silence

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made. All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your faithful shall bless you. They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power, to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds. The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.

Offertory

Offering Prayer

All things have their origin with you, Lord, and
from these riches we freely give, that you may use these gifts for your glory and honor. Amen

Passing the Peace (during the passing of the peace, children please come forward for a message and blessing.)

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 and hand-sign of peace.

Children's Message

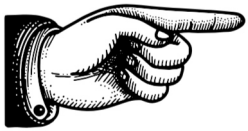
Prayer for Illumination

Lord God, as we open your holy Scriptures, send your Holy Spirit to enlighten our hearts and minds. Help us to receive your Word with reverence and joy, that it may shape our lives and draw us closer to you. Amen.

Sermon Text Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to Christ!

Sermon "The Monument Is That Way"



Communion Song *"Come As You Are"* David Crowder

Sacrament of Communion

Meaning

Invitation

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.

Communion

Prayers of the People by the People

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.

Sending Hymn *"More Love More Power"* Jude del Hierro
See insert

***Charge & Blessing**

***Postlude** "More Love More Power" reprise

Note: Join us in Clee Park after worship for our Special FOCUS Lemonade Lull.

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mark Mast
Liturgist: Kathleen Brennan-Claydon
Guitar & Vocals: Glenn Claydon
Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss, Stephen Reohr

CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689

Keep an eye out next week for a Special Historical Summer Family!

FOCUS
CHURCHES OF ALBANY

Partners In Ministry

Together, we are making a difference.

FOCUS Covenant Churches

Delmar Reformed Church
386 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY
drchurch.org

First Church in Albany
110 N. Pearl Street, Albany, NY
firstchurchinalbany.org

Emmanuel Baptist Church
275 State Street, Albany, NY
emmanuelalbany.net

First Presbyterian Church
362 State Street, Albany, NY
firstpresalbany.org

Westminster Presbyterian Church
85 Chestnut St, Albany, NY
wpcalbany.org

Affiliate Faith Communities

Congregation Beth Emeth
100 Academy Rd #100, Albany, NY 12208
cbealbany.org

First Lutheran Church of Albany
181 Western Avenue, Albany, NY 12203
firstlutheranalbany.org

t Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany
05 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12206
albanyuu.org

First United Methodist Church
428 Kenwood Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054
delmarmethodist.org

New Covenant Presbyterian Church
916 Western Avenue, Albany, NY 12203
albanyncpc.com

St. Andrews Episcopal Church
10 North Main Avenue, Albany, NY 12203
standrewsalbany.org

Unity of Albany
21 King Avenue, Albany, NY 12206
unityalbany.org

July 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
AUG 2026 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31			1	2	3 Office Closed	4
5 FOCUS Service	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 FOCUS Board Mtg	29	30	31	

Key:

Indoor Worship 10am

Coffee Hour

Drive In Worship 10am

Lemonade Lull

Communion Sunday

Pantry 9am

Hot Dogs 12pm

Centering Prayer 12pm

AA 12pm

First KIDS

SUMMER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 2026

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

TUE 7	PANTRY FCIA		9AM
WED 8	HOT DOGS IN THE PARK		11:30AM
	CENTERING PRAYER	IN THE POWELL ROOM	NOON
	AA MEETING	IN THE PARLOR	NOON
THU 9	PANTRY FCIA		9AM
SUN 12	DRIVE-IN WORSHIP	IN THE SHERIDAN LOT	10AM
	LEMONADE LULL	IN CLEE PARK	10:45AM

FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT
WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG

ROOTED IN JESUS CHRIST
THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY
COMMITTED TO THE PEOPLE AND CITY OF ALBANY NY

The First Church in Albany
110 North Pearl St., Albany NY 12207
518-463-4449
www.firstchurchinalbany.org

Leaning On The Everlasting Arms

Anthony Showalter, Elisha Hoffman

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms,
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning, Safe and secure from all alarms,
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms,
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning, Safe and secure from all alarms,
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning, Safe and secure from all alarms,
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning on the everlasting arms
Leaning on the everlasting arms

More Love, More Power

Jude del Hierro

And I will worship You with all of my heart
And I will worship You with all of my mind
And I will worship You with all of my strength
For You are my Lord, You are my Lord

More love, more power, more of You in my life
More love, more power, more of You in my life
More love, more power, more of You in my life
More love, more power, more of You in my life

And I will worship You with all of my heart
And I will worship You with all of my mind
And I will worship You with all of my strength
For You are my Lord, You are my Lord

More faith, more passion, More of You in my life
More faith, more passion, More of You in my life

And I will worship You with all of my heart
And I will worship You with all of my mind
And I will worship You with all of my strength
For You are my Lord

And I will worship You with all of my heart
And I will worship You with all of my mind
And I will worship You with all of my strength
For You are my Lord, You are my Lord, You are my Lord,
You are my lord