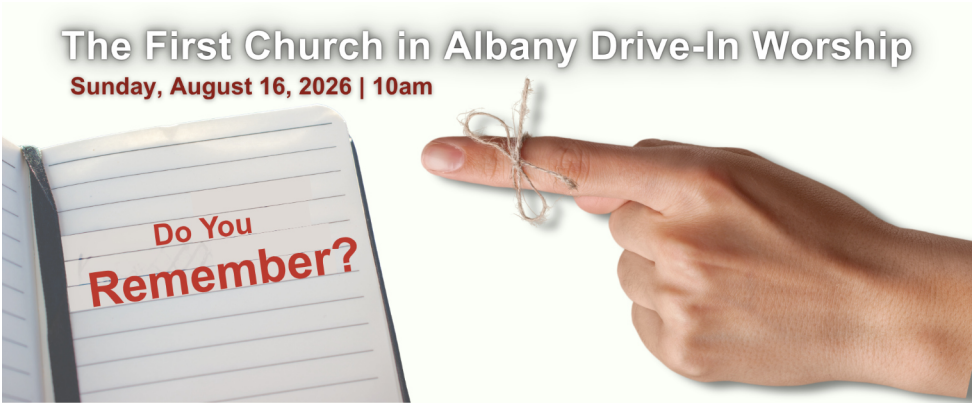

Radio Station 87.9 FM

Prelude *Medley of "Now Thank We All Our God/ Come, Ye Thankful People"*
J. Cruger/G.J. Elvey; arr. Cindy Berry

Welcome and Announcements

Blessing

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 85:8-13)

Leader: Let the peoples praise you, O God;
People: let all the peoples praise you.
Leader: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
People: for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.
Leader: Let the peoples praise you, O God;
People: let all the peoples praise you!

Opening Hymn
"Come Ye Thankful People Come" #367
ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR
See p. 4

Prayer of Confession Matthew 15:21-28 (Unison)

Merciful God, we confess that, just like Jesus' disciples, we too sometimes lose patience with people who need our help and support. Like the disciples, we find ourselves wishing that they would just go away and leave us in peace. In Your mercy, forgive us. Remind us again of the deep love You showed toward us when we were still in need— a love so deep that it sent You willingly to the cross on our behalf. Show us how to love others as You have

loved us. Teach us Your compassion, so that we may be Your hands and feet to those in need. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (based on Romans 11:1-2, 29-32)

Brothers and sisters, nothing we say or do can ever separate us from God's mercy and love, for God's gifts and God's call can never be withdrawn. His ultimate purpose is not to punish, but to forgive. So be at peace. God has heard your confession. Your sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

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

Offertory *"Near to the Heart of God"*
tune by Cleland B. McAfee; arr. Cindy Berry

Offertory Prayer

God, we offer these tithes and offerings as a symbol of our hope in you. May they be used to bring hope to those who need it most. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Holy One, covenant-keeper, you restore what is lost, heal what is wounded,and gather in those who have been rejected. Give us the faith to hear your word and to speak of your love as we welcome all so all may be blessed. Amen.

Sermon Text Psalm 67

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon "Do You Remember?"

Communion

Prayers of 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
"Now Thank We All Our God" #643
NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT
See p. 5

Charge & Blessing

Postlude *"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"*
German hymn tune; arr. Cindy Berry

Notes: Join us in Clee Park after worship for our Lemonade Lull.

**Pastor Mark will be away from August 17 through August 31.

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mark Mast
Liturgist: Shaun Sommers
Keyboardist: Darhon Rees-Rohrbacher
Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss, Stephen Reohr

CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689

367 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Despite its familiar Thanksgiving associations, the real concern of this text is to recall the harvest imagery Jesus used to describe the fulfillment of God's sovereignty. The tune name commemorates the royal chapel where the composer was organist for forty-seven years.

TEXT: Henry Alford, 1844, alt.
MUSIC: George Job Elvey, 1858

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR
7.7.7.7.D

643 Now Thank We All Our God

Although this hymn is often used on large and festive occasions, its first two stanzas had much humbler beginnings: they originated as a family table prayer during the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648). These words have been associated with this tune since the mid-17th century.

TEXT: Martin Rinkart, c. 1636; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1858, alt.
MUSIC: Johann Crüger, 1647; harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT
6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6

FOCUS on a Strong Start: Back-to-School Giving Drive

Having the right clothing and school supplies helps children arrive at school ready to participate, learn, and thrive.

FOCUS is raising $2,500 by August 26 to provide $50 back-to-school gift cards for 50 children whose families visit the FOCUS Food Pantry.

The gift cards will be used at local Albany store B. Lodge & Co., where families can choose school necessities and clothing that best meet their children's needs. By contributing to the drive, you can help local children begin the school year feeling prepared, comfortable, and confident.

To give online go to focuschurches.net and look for the FOCUS Spotlight for the link

Do you prefer to contribute to the giving drive by check? Checks can be made payable to "FOCUS" and mailed to:

FOCUS Churches of Albany

275 State Street Albany, NY 12210

Please indicate on your check that your donation is for the Back-to-School giving drive.

Prayer LIST

as of 8.10.26 — Indicates a new request

Current Joys & Concerns

- For office manager Colleen Lais as she begins radiation treatments.
- For Star and John Haviland, both working through some health issues.
- For Linda, friend of the Masts, as she navigates some health and life issues, and for her caretakers as they serve her.
- For pantry guest Charles Wilson, with health concerns (with permission).
- For Tammy, friend of the Claydon's with health concerns.
- For Steve, deacon Becky Hudak's partner, who has a new diagnosis. Traveling mercies for Steve and Becky as they travel back and forth for his treatment. Becky asks for prayers for strength, assurance and healing.
- For Maureen J., pantry guest, for family issues.
- For Carol Labatte, with health concerns and Phil Labatte who cares for her.
- For a pantry guests Barbra and Bobby, for the return of their son Kenny.
- For Jim Gallagher, son-in-law of Joyce Recene.

Ongoing Needs

- Olivia Gaydushek, granddaughter of the Van Epps
- Mia Westman
- For the food insecure wrestling with loss of benefits, and for pantries and food banks as they try to fill the needs
- For those impacted by the ongoing war in Iran and multiple skirmishes across the globe, may we seek peace.

Give Thanks

- For our coming together in worship, and to praise God
- For the folks who came together on Wednesday to make sure we were able to provide Hot Dogs, supporting the ministry during some volunteer absences

Note: *Prayer concerns will be kept on the list for 4 Sundays. Please let the office or a member of Consistory know if a concern needs to be kept on after that. (To add an item to the prayer chain, contact the minister, the office or a member of consistory.)*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

August 2026

THE OFFICE MAY OPEN A BIT LATE FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS.
SORRY FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE.

TUE 17 — HAPPY 384TH BIRTHDAY FIRST CHURCH!!!

TUE 18 — PANTRY FCIA — 9AM

WED 19 — HOT DOGS IN THE PARK — 11:30AM

CENTERING PRAYER — NOON
IN THE POWELL ROOM
AA MEETING — IN THE PARLOR — NOON

THU 20 — PANTRY FCIA — 9AM

SUN 23 — DRIVE-IN WORSHIP — IN THE SHERIDAN AVE. LOT — 10AM
LEMONADE LULL — IN CLEE PARK

FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT
WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG

HARVEST TIME

Enjoy Summer TIME

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