

First Church in Albany

Founded in 1642

THE FAMILY

April 2021



Cleo is back on the watch!

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First Church celebrates our Risen Lord by welcoming our neighbors!



Churches often encourage their congregants to extend an invitation to friends and family. “Why don’t you come to church with us?” As we begin to move beyond Covid, that invitation may have to change a bit. Many studies are suggesting that as churches open back up to gathered worship, a large number of people may remain at home, watching online. Zoom and YouTube streaming is not just a “for-the-time-being” solution anymore. Some churches are starting to consider these followers as their **digital campus**.

Others encourage churches to make their invitation broader, to include their mission. **Easter Sunday's Easter Egg Hunt &**

Book Giveaway at FCIA is an example of such an invitation. Reaching out and connecting with our neighbors in this way can break down the barriers that often keep people from regular church attendance. Our prayer is that others begin to see the church as a partner in their neighborhood moving forward and join that mission to the Glory of God!

Weathervanes — No April Meeting

from Audrey Ming



We continue to exercise caution due to COVID cases, we have decided not to have any Weathervanes meetings until further notice. When the situation improves sufficiently, we will resume meetings and Pastor Mashona will present a program on her trip to Ghana. We will keep you posted.



Centering Prayer In-Person!

Centering Prayer will resume in-person on Wednesday, April 14 at noon in the Chapel. You will need to wear your mask and maintain a safe distance as we continue our safe practices due to Covid-19. We will meet each Wednesday at noon. We will continue to offer the conference call option as well.

Centering prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship.



Bible Study has moved to Tuesday

The bible study that had been meeting on Monday's at noon via Zoom is meeting on a new day, according to group leader Ian Leet. The Bible Study is now be held on Tuesday's at noon via Zoom. "This," he says, "will avoid the Monday holidays and will give us a little breathing space from Sunday's worship to consider the passages more intentionally." Contact Ian at ian.leet@outlook.com.

Email issues at church

If you have emailed anyone with an "@firstchurchinalbany.org" email address recently, you may have received an error response. Bear with us as we work on a technical issue to get us back up and running. In the meantime, you are welcome to send any correspondence to Colleen, your office manager, at fciaofficemanager@gmail.com and she will see to it that your email gets delivered. We appreciate your patience while we work on this.



Beginning Experience of the Hudson Valley invites men and women of all ages who have suffered the loss of a spouse due to death, divorce or separation to a one-day remote program:

COPING WITH LIFE ALONE

Take the first step on the road to recovery from one of life's most traumatic experiences.



Saturday, May 1, 2021

9:00AM to 4:30PM

Remote Attendance Only

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: Call Jim 845 569 9452 or Denise 845 325 3147

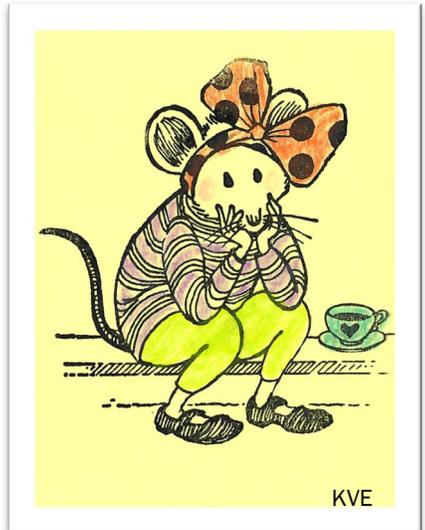
Email: beginningexperienceofhv@gmail.com

Website: www.beginningexperiencehv.org

A Prayer to Share...

Recently, whilst breaking bread, dear Karen shared this with her friends...

Let my heart, O God, always recognize, cherish and enjoy your goodness of all creation. Direct all this in me toward your praise. Teach me reverence for every person and all things. Energize me in your service, Lord God. May nothing ever distract me from your love...neither health or sickness, wealth or poverty, honor or dishonor, long life or short life. May I never seek to not choose to be other than you intend or wish. Amen.



From Pastor Mashona...

Dear Members and Friends,

Eastertide is here! Once again, we are blessed to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ! Once again, we are blessed to celebrate the living Christ and share the love of Christ with our neighbors and loved ones.

So many of you joined us in worship on Easter! Outdoor/Drive-In worship has resumed through the summer. We look forward to seeing more of you as the season progresses and the weather warms up. Bring your families, neighbors, and friends.

Our Easter offering this year will be shared with a local and an international mission.

Capital City Rescue Mission

www.capitalcityrescuemission.org

Capital City Rescue Mission, located in Albany NY, provides homeless and recovery services to persons in our local area. *(Read more on page 7 of this Family)*

Heifer International

www.heifer.org

Heifer International works in 21 countries around the world alongside local farmers and business owners. Heifer International provide support to farmers and their communities. Farmers receive assistance as they mobilize and envision their futures, provide training so they can improve the quantity and quality of the goods they produce, and connection to market to increase sales and incomes.

Eastertide,

Mashona



Bible Readings for April 2021

Easter—Year B	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Resurrection of the Lord —April 4, 2021 Easter Day	Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	John 20:1-18
Easter Evening —April 4, 2021	Isaiah 25:6-9	Psalm 114	1 Corinthians 5:6b-8	Luke 24:13-49
Second Sunday of Easter —April 11, 2021	Acts 4:32-35	Psalm 133	1 John 1:1-2:2	John 20:19-31
Third Sunday of Easter —April 18, 2021	Acts 3:12-19	Psalm 4	1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48
Fourth Sunday of Easter —April 25th, 2021	Acts 4:5-12	Psalm 23	1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18
Fifth Sunday of Easter —May 2, 2021	Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 22:25-31	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8

These readings come from the Revised Common Lectionary. www.lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu

Welcome FCIA Parking, Inc.

Update on the Sheridan Ave. Parking Lot

by Ray Van Epps, Operations Manager, FCIA Parking, Inc.



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A new company, FCIA Parking, Inc., has leased the Sheridan Avenue parking lot from First Church and anticipates beginning operation in mid to late April 2021.

The parking lot will operate Monday thru Saturday with paid parking. Parkers will pay hourly or daily rates at either of two kiosks using

a credit card or debit card – no cash. Additionally, the lot will be re-arranged and marked with new parking spots to facilitate more orderly parking.

Use of the lot by members of First Church will continue to be free – be sure to obtain and display your First Church orange parking sticker. Sunday Drive-in worship will have full use of the lot. Also, the FCIA Parking, Inc. manager will work closely with First Church’s Office Manager to coordinate and accommodate First Church special event parking.

The company’s Board of Directors are Phil LaBatte, Jay Reohr and Ned Monthie with operational officers Monica Marsh (President), Joyce Recene (Secretary/Treasurer) and Ray Van Epps (Operations Manager).



Spring is Springing in our First Church Flower Gardens

Spring is here, and the First Church flower gardens are getting ready for another season of beautiful blooms. Little crocuses have peeped through the mulch, and daffodils and tulips are close behind. Geraniums and marigolds will do well in the sunny side of the parish house, and the perennials that were planted will once again emerge. Volunteers will be needed to do some clean-up and plant the annuals once the danger of frost has passed. If you would like to help, contact Shirley Bone at scbone@verizon.net.

Thank you,
Board of Trustees—Clee Park Committee

Memorials

- In celebration of the life of **Joline Mondore**, a gift has been received from Ned and Kathie Monthie for the Weathervanes.
- In celebration of the life of **Joline Mondore**, a gift has been received from Elizabeth Pierce for the Weathervanes.
- In celebration of the life of **Joline Mondore**, a gift has been received from Norman and Nancy Tellier for the Weathervanes.
- In celebration of the life of **Joline Mondore**, a gift has been received from William Karchner for the Weathervanes.
- In celebration of the life of **Joline Mondore**, a gift has been received from Steve and Patricia Messinger for the Weathervanes.
- In celebration of the life of **Joline Mondore**, a gift has been received from William Brownell for the Weathervanes.
- In celebration of the life of **Joline Mondore**, a gift has been received from Wilma Sheffer for the Weathervanes.
- In celebration of the life of **Joline Mondore**, a gift has been received from Carol Brownell for the Weathervanes.
- In celebration of the life of **Joline Mondore**, a gift has been received from Steven Hoffman for the Drive-In Service Ministry.
- In celebration of the life of **Joline Mondore**, a gift has been received from Judith Utley Suess for the Community Ministries Memorial fund, including the pantry.
- In celebration of the life of **Joline Mondore**, a gift has been received from Denise Lobdell for the Clee Park fund.
- In celebration of the life of **Joline Mondore**, a gift has been received from Shirley Joosten for the Lynn Joosten Scholarship Fund.
- In celebration of the life of **Jane Ward**, a gift has been received from Cindy Gillespie for the FCIA Food Pantry.
- In celebration of the life of **Jane Ward**, a gift has been received from Ned and Kathie Monthie for the Community Ministries Memorial fund, including the food pantry.
- In celebration of the life of **Jane Ward**, a gift has been received from Elizabeth Pierce for the Community Ministries Memorial fund, including the food pantry.
- In celebration of the life of **Jane Ward**, a gift has been received from Karen Van Epps for the Music Ministry.
- In celebration of the life of **Jane Ward**, a gift has been received from Janice Monaghan for the Community Ministries Memorial fund, including the food pantry.
- In celebration of the life of **Jane Ward**, a gift has been received from Barbara Callahan for the Community Ministries Memorial fund, including the food pantry.
- In celebration of the life of **Jane Ward**, a gift has been received from Denise Lobdell for the Clee Park fund.
- In celebration of the life of **Jane Ward**, a gift has been received from Judith Utley Suess for the Community Ministries Memorial fund, including the food pantry.
- In celebration of the life of **Jane Ward**, a gift has been received from Joyce Recene for the Community Ministries Memorial fund, including the food pantry.



Memorials (continued)

- In celebration of the life of **Linda Becker Heim**, a gift has been received from Shirley Jooston for the Lynn Joosten Scholarship Fund.
- In celebration of the life of **Linda Becker Heim**, a gift has been received from Shirley, Richard, and Roger Bone for the Endowment Fund.
- In celebration of the life of **Alice Goewey Goebel and her son Paul**, a gift has been received from Shirley Bone for the Endowment Fund.
- In celebration of the life of **Alberta Kelsey** has been received from Shirley Bone for the Community Ministries Memorial Fund, including the food pantry.

Other Gifts

- To honor **Gertrude Dorn**, a gift has been received from Karen Van Epps for the Drive-In Service Ministry.
- A gift has been received from Michael and Nancy Parsons for the Community Ministries Memorial Fund, including the food pantry.
- A gift has been received from Bethany Reformed Church for the Community Ministries Memorial Fund, including the food pantry.



Easter Flower Tributes

- Norma Jean Ballou and family in loving memory of her parents, and their grandparents, Clarence and Blendine McNeil
- Norma Jean Ballou and family in loving memory of her brothers and other loved ones
- Mary and Richard Bennett and family in loving memory of Kenneth and Mary Snyder
- Gertrude Dorn and family in loving memory of Robert J. Dorn, husband, father, and grandfather
- Sylvia Chipp Insall in loving memory of Father Rodney B. Chipp
- Sylvia Chipp Insall in loving memory of Mother Leona P. Chipp
- Sylvia Chipp Insall in loving memory of Brother Robert Deyo Chipp
- Sylvia Chipp Insall in loving memory of dear friend E. Helen Gardner
- Ned and Kathie Monthie in loving memory of his parents, Fran and Ed Monthie
- Kathie and Ned Monthie in loving memory of her parents, Ruth and Hank Reiners
- Monica Marsh in loving memory of her husband Wayne Sivaslian
- Audrey Ming in loving memory of Fred and Ruth Ming
- Jan and Charles Parmalee in loving memory of her parents, Lois B. and I. Benjamin Crilly
- Charles and Jan Parmalee in loving memory of his parents, Norine B. and Carleton A. Parmalee
- Doug and Jill Persons in loving memory of Nancy Alford
- Art and Donna Schultz in loving memory of their parents, Theresa and Franklin
- Patricia Salsbury in loving memory of her mother Grace Baker
- Charles and Sara Welge in loving memory of his mother, Barbara
- Charles and Sara Welge in loving memory of her father, John Bonham

From our mission partners...

- Update from **John and Lynne Hubers, RCA Missionaries in Ethiopia.**
 - As recently as February, John and Lynne were in Holland, awaiting their vaccinations so that they could return to Ethiopia.
 - The seminary in Addis, Ethiopia is still operating under strict pandemic regulations. They have experienced some changes to their staff that have been challenging, but are heartened by the interest of nine new students.
 - In addition to Covid, Ethiopia is also dealing with the collapse of the economy related to civil unrest in the north.
 - The Hubers offer their gratitude for our support, compassion, and partnership in this mission. They ask for continued prayers for the country of Ethiopia and the important work of the seminary.
- Locally, **The Capital City Rescue Mission** is preparing for their 10th Annual Hearts of Hope Event, to be held on May 25th. Visit the website listed below to learn more about two ways to attend. They will be sharing exciting updates on the New Home for Women project as well as stories of those helped when you support this mission.

In 2020, the Capital City Rescue Mission...

- provided 79,352 safe nights of shelter
- served 291,052 hot nutritious meals
- shared 241,174 articles of clean clothing
- provided for 1,503 medical clinic visits
- helped over 200 individuals in addiction recovery
- welcomed 39,607 chapel attendees



<https://capitalcityrescuemission.org/event/hearts-of-hope/>

A portion of this year's Easter Sunday offering will go to benefit the Capital City Rescue Mission.

Blessed Among Us

Johan van Hulst, Righteous Among the Nations (1911-2018)

In 1943, during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands, Jewish families who had received deportation orders were housed in a theater in Amsterdam. Children were separated from their families and housed in a nearby Jewish nursery run by Henriette Pimentel. Behind the nursery was a garden, separated only by a hedge from the Reformed Teachers' Training College, a Protestant school directed by Johan van Hulst. Working with Pimentel and members of the Dutch Resistance, Hulst arranged for children, ranging in age from infants to 12-year-olds, to be snuck in to his school and hidden until they could be smuggled to the countryside. Altogether he is credited with rescuing as many as 600 children.

The dangers of the work were obvious. It was impossible to save all the children. The most difficult task was selecting as many as they could without attracting attention, knowing that the rest faced certain death. When Pimentel was arrested and the nursery was slated to be closed, Hulst was asked how many more he could accept. He took 12. "That was the most difficult day of my life," he said. "Later on, I asked myself, 'Why not 13?'"

Hulst spent the last months of the war in hiding. Yet he survived and went on to serve in the Dutch Senate. In 1972 in a ceremony in Israel he was added to the list of Righteous Among the Nations—gentiles who rescued Jews during the Holocaust. He died on March 22, 2018, at the age of 107.

"I was at the center of a particular activity. It's not about me. I don't want to put myself in the foreground or play Resistance hero. All I really think about is the things I couldn't do—the few thousand children I wasn't able to save." ~Johan van Hulst

~from a Reformed Church Prayer Book

Pantry Stats For March 2021



FCIA Food Pantry Coordinator Lorraine Houk reports the following statistics for March.

March 2021

- 1,602 Meals were served
- 63 Households
- 11 Children
- 56 Adults
- 22 Seniors

The pantry was also recently awarded \$750 from the Stewarts Holiday Match Program. Thanks to the company and all those generous customers!

Traffic FYI:

Construction has begun on the Albany Skyway Project. The Clinton Ave ramp, if you are heading North on 787, is closed permanently to make way for the park. Detours are in place. The ramp heading south on 787 does not appear to be impacted at this time.

April Birthdays



- 12 Charnelle Jones
- 12 Meredith Parmalee
- 13 Cindy Gillespie
- 13 Edward Hunter
- 13 Ian Leet
- 16 Kokese Ballou
- 24 David Bradley
- 25 Whitney Ballou

Happy Birthday to all!

If we have missed your birthday or the birthday of a friend or family member here at First Church, please do not hesitate to let us know. Email to fciaofficemanager@gmail.com or call the office at 518-463-4449. Thank you.

To Keep In Your Prayers

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 fciaofficemanager@gmail.com. We will put them in a future edition of the Family.



- Family and friends of Wayne Sivaslian
- Family and friends of Linda Becker Heim
- Family and friends of Jane Ward
- Family and friends of Joline Mondore
- The family of Agnes Hevi
- Larry Underdue
- Judith Suess & Leroy
- Amy Carr (Gillespie Family)
- Cindy Gillespie in benevolence for the loss of her father
- Kathy Stallmer (Monthie family)
- Brown family
- Pagerey family
- Steve Hoffman
- Beth
- Ginger
- Charles Welge
- Staff and Leaders

Deadline for the Family: Please submit information for the Family by April 30 for our May issue. Email items to fciaofficemanager@gmail.com.



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"OLDEST PULPIT IN AMERICA"

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