

Prayers, Joys & Concerns

- Karen Van Epps and family, for the passing of her brother Peter Weldon
- Sharnelle Jones
- Joeanna Brown
- We rejoice with the Bianchine & Cummings families for the wedding of Mark & Emily
- Norma McClement
- Norma Jean Ballou
- For Sara Bonam-Welge and family
- Deborah Paris, daughter of Betty Pierce
- Sam, son of Barb and Dave Andrews
- Sam, cousin of Barb Andrews
- For Barb and Dave Andrews as they take on the role of caretakers
- Joe Vasta and Albie, friends of the Persons
- Ken Lucas, friend of Philip Labatte
- Kokese Ballou
- Janie Unright, friend of the Andrews family
- For Jennifer Recene Gallagher
- Carol LaBatte
- Ruth and Josue Torres
- For Jim, Rose Hunsberger's father
- Alexis Parry, niece of Cheryl Gowie
- Gail Santimaw, friend of Judith Utley-Suess
- John Utley, brother of Judith Utley-Suess
- Judith Utley-Suess, for strength
- Harold Bushnel
- Alex Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Cheryl Gowie
- Ralph McNeil, brother of Norma Jean Ballou
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Donna Schultz
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Clergy, staff and leaders of the First Church in Albany
- Prayers for all areas of conflict across the globe. May we all remember to lead with love.
- For an end to gun violence here in Albany, in the U.S., and around the world.





SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 FOCUS CHURCHES OF ALBANY First Presbyterian of Albany	3 	4 Office Closed for Independence Day	5 AA	6 A Night of Worship	7	8
9 	10 	11	12 AA	13 	14	15
16 	17 	18	19 AA	20 	21	22
23 30	24 31	25	26 AA	27 	28	29

Key:





THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

SUMMER EVENTS CALENDAR

JULY

- 2 - FOCUS SUNDAY, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN IN ALBANY, **NO WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH**
- 3 - PANTRY CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE
- 4 - (TUESDAY) OFFICE CLOSED FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 16 - BRING YOUR BIKE AND RIDE THE ALBANY SKYWAY AFTER WORSHIP! (WALKERS WELCOME!)
- 30 - SPECIAL COMMUNION IN CLEE PARK AFTER WORSHIP



AUGUST

- 6 - FOCUS SUNDAY, TRINITY UNITED METHODIST, **NO WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH**
- 13 - FIRST CHURCH BIRTHDAY BASH #381! ENJOY SOME SPECIAL REFRESHMENTS AFTER WORSHIP
- 20 - ALOHA ATTIRE COMPETITION. COME DRESSED IN YOUR ALOHA BEST!
- 27 - SPECIAL COMMUNION IN CLEE PARK AFTER WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER

- 3 - FOCUS SUNDAY, EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH, **NO WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH**
- 4 - (MONDAY) OFFICE CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY
- 17 - LAST DRIVE-IN SERVICE
- 24 - BACK TO **IN-DOOR SERVICE**, BLESSINGS OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS



REMINDER: THIS IS JUST THE CALENDAR OF SPECIAL SUNDAYS, HOLIDAYS, AND EVENTS. KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR ANY MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

SUMMER 2023



Join us each Thursday,
from 11:30am-1:00pm
in Clee Park
for a free Hot Dog lunch



Please Share and Come to Help Out!

We could use your help to support of this ministry. If you would like to donate supplies, the following items can be dropped off in the workroom.

- Nathan's all-beef hotdogs
- Hot-Dog Buns
- Individual bags of chips
- Fruit (i.e. apples, oranges)
- Bottled Water, soda
- Popsicles
- Condiments (i.e. ketchup, mustard, relish, bbq)
- Napkins

We also need volunteers to help serve on Thursdays.



The First Church in Albany is committed to the city and people of Albany NY. This feeding ministry is part of our commitment.

Pantry Hours

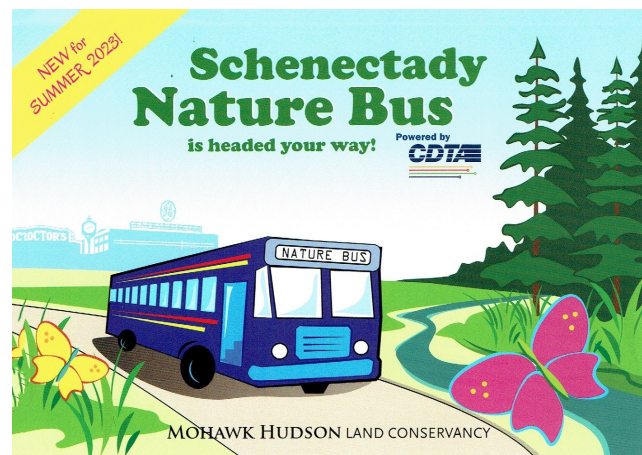
**Monday and
Wednesday
9am - 11:30am**

The pantry entrance is on Orange St.

518-463-4449

www.firstchurchinalbany.org

The First Church in Albany
110 North Pearl St.
Albany NY 12207



Connecting people to nature one stop at a time!

ECOS: The Environmental Clearinghouse and Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy (MHL) have teamed up with CDTA to bring a limited Nature Bus trolley service to Schenectady! During three weekends this summer, enjoy free bus service and free programming at natural spaces within Schenectady County.

Saturday, July 22

- MHL's Fox Preserve & Mohawk Hudson Bike Blai Path - Town of Colonie
- The Nature Conservancy's Lisha Kill Natural Area - Town of Niskayuna

Saturday, August 26

- Collins Park - Village of Scotia
- Sanders Preserve - Town of Glenville



Visit our website for details on free programs, a link to the CDTA trolley schedule, and a list of sponsors who made this program possible!

www.mohawkhudson.org/nature-bus



General Synod 2023 is complete, and Room for All's Executive Director Cameron was there as the moderator of the RCA's Commission on Christian Action. Here's a brief rundown of some of the major items the delegates discussed or voted on in Pella, IA.

With originally only 90 minutes scheduled for small groups to discuss the restructuring team's proposal, a motion was made to amend the schedule and add an hour for open full-plenary discussion. This time was used for delegates to express questions, concerns, or appreciation for the first draft of the team's proposal, but what became clear is that people across the "political spectrum" shared similar concerns and pushback. The restructuring team will take this feedback and that given in the small groups to continue their work.

The RCA celebrated 5 decades of the recognition of women's gifts for ministry in the RCA! The offices of elder and deacon opened to women in 1972, and the office of minister of Word and sacrament opened in 1979. We praise God that this critical justice movement has flourished for 50 years, and look forward to the day when all barriers to these offices are torn down in the RCA.

Significant changes to how theological education is done and who deems a candidate prepared for ordination were approved. Read more in depth here.

The RCA has shifted from assessments to covenant shares, which will take effect in 2024. Whereas assessments were calculated on a per-member basis, the covenant shares model looks more like tithing, based on a percentage of the contributions received by each church within the bounds of a classis.

The Commission on Christian Action brought recommendations ranging from worker's rights to advocacy on peace in Israel/Palestine to issues of spiritual abuse. The original report of the CCA along with the language of the recommendations (some of which were altered by the body before approval) can be found here.

The Commission on Theology presented a paper, named "Together in Difference," (page 228) as a model for how we can discuss issues on which we disagree. This specific paper was the commission's reflection on the New Brunswick Classis paper, "Affirmed and Celebrated," presented to General Synod 2022 and referred to the Commission. The motion to formally share "Together in Difference" with the RCA was not passed.

The Board of Benefit services wrote a paper, "An Equitable Future," for churches and assemblies to study and address systemic racism and the barriers presented to historically non-white congregations and leaders in obtaining employment benefits.

Rev. Dwayne Jackson (New Jersey) led us as President, with Rev. Judy Nelson (Michigan) serving as Vice President (now President-elect of General Synod 2024). Rev. Joshua Scheid (Long Island, NY) is the Vice President of General Synod 2024.

While the meetings of General Synod this year were primarily low-intensity and much less fraught than some recent years, there were moments of tension and sometimes ungracious words spoken. The major theme of the General Synod seems to be that there is a lot of uncertainty and concern over the restructuring of the denomination, many questions left unanswered, and a deep hunger for community and in-person relationship building.



It's Not Too Late!

To give your children, your family, and especially yourself a summer experience where you can reconnect with nature and grow closer to God in one of the most beautiful spots in God's incredible creation.

Pathfinder Lodge is a Christ-centered camp in the American Baptist tradition located on the east shore of Otsego Lake, about 5 miles from Cooperstown and 65 miles from Albany. It offers sleep-over camps for children from 5 to 18 years old, group retreats (including for Pastors), special weekend events, family camping, and opportunities to rent camp facilities for your own use.

Campers of all ages can enjoy swimming, boating, hiking, crafts, campfires, camaraderie, and the chance to be still and listen for God's leading. Week-long Youth camps offer Bible studies and worship services as well as emphasis on special interests such as crafts, sailing, and outdoor adventures. Their theme, "Love Your Selfie, Created in God's Image," comes from Psalm 139: "I have been remarkably and wonderfully made."

Youth camps and other opportunities begin next week, and there is still room for you! For full details and registration forms, please go to <https://www.vpccministries.org/summer-camp/>

Pathfinder Lodge, which is the camp we support at Emmanuel Baptist, has wonderful Christ-centered programs for people of all ages this summer, and there is room for you. If you have questions, please call me at 518-482-6612 or 518-265-0551.

Many thanks,

Edith Leet