

# THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

(Reformed Church in America)

110 North Pearl Street, Albany, NY 12207 ~ (518) 463-4449

Email: [info@firstchurchinalbany.org](mailto:info@firstchurchinalbany.org) ~ Website: [www.firstchurchinalbany.org](http://www.firstchurchinalbany.org) ~ Sunday Worship: 10:30 am

## Founded in 1642; Continuing in Ministry Today

*In response to God's unconditional love for all people made known to us in Jesus Christ, we are called to be a welcoming and affirming community. The First Church in Albany includes young and old, families, couples and singles, rich and poor, persons of various races, ethnicities, backgrounds, sexual orientation and gender identities, differing physical and mental abilities, believers and seekers. We welcome into the full life of the church all those whom God sends us. Centered in Christ, we commit ourselves to breaking down dividing walls and building a community where all are loved.*

## Baptism of Christ Sunday January 13, 2019

Prelude

*Like the First Bird*

Alfred V. Fedak

Announcements

Call to Worship

Today we celebrate the baptism of Christ and we remember:

Baptism is the sign and seal of God's promises to this covenant people.

In baptism God promises by grace alone:

to forgive our sins,

to adopt us into the body of Christ, the church,

to send the Holy Spirit daily to renew and cleanse us, and

to resurrect us to eternal life.

**This promise is made visible in the water of baptism.**

Water cleanses, purifies, refreshes, sustains;

**Jesus Christ is living water.**

Through baptism Christ calls us to new obedience:

to love and trust God completely,

to forsake the evil of the world, and

to live a new and holy life.

Yet, when we fall into sin,  
we must not despair of God's mercy,  
nor continue in sin,  
for baptism is the sign and seal  
of God's eternal covenant of grace with us.

**Today we celebrate the baptism of Christ and we remember:  
We are sealed by the Holy Spirit,  
marked as God's own forever, and  
called to follow Christ in mission.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.  
**Amen.**

Psalm 124:8

\*Hymn #492 *Baptized in Water*

BUNESSAN

Prayer of Confession (based on Isaiah 43: 1-2)

**Gracious God, we confess that too often we live  
as though we are fearful, not faithful.  
When we encounter the waters of chaos and confusion,  
we don't easily pass through them.  
Instead we obsess about the height of the water,  
not trusting the sight of the other side,  
or that a shore waits beyond the horizon.  
You promised to walk through the rivers with us.  
Help us believe.  
And help our unbelief.**

*The prayer may continue in silence.\*

Assurance of Pardon

\*The Peace

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

\*Response (Tune: Jesus, the Light of the World)

*Hail the Bearer of God's peace! Jesus, the light of the world;  
Hail the Sun of righteousness! Jesus, the light of the world.  
We will follow the light, beautiful light,  
come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright,  
Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the light of the world.*

A Word with Children

### THE WORD OF GOD

The Prayer for Illumination

**Eternal God, in the reading of the Scripture, may your word be heard; in the meditation of our hearts, may your word be known; and in the faithfulness of our lives, may your word be shown. Amen.**

The Gospel Lesson                      Luke 3:15-22

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon                                In Your Light, We See Light

The Prayer for Blessing on the Word

### THE RESPONSE TO GOD

\*Hymn #70                      *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized*                      CAITHNESS

Offering

Offertory                      *Verbum Caro Factum Est (Word Made Flesh, We Welcome You)*    15<sup>th</sup> Carol  
arr. Richard Proulx

*Verbum caro factum est; Habitavit in nobis. Alleluia.  
Word-made-flesh, we welcome you; come to dwell among us here. Alleluia.  
Thus has God made known to us His salvation for us all. Alleluia.  
Close to me, He called my name; you my Father, I your Son. Alleluia.*

\*Doxology (Tune: #591)

*Praise God, the Love we all may share;  
Praise God, the Beauty everywhere;  
Praise God, the Hope of Good to be;  
Praise God, the Truth that makes us free. Amen.*

The Joys and Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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.**

\*Hymn 498 *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

KINGDOM

\*Charge and Blessing

Postlude *Carillon on Psalm 42*

Alfred V. Fedak

ΑΩ

\*Those who are able, please stand

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:** Preacher: The Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden; Organist: Iteke Prins.

**We welcome all who gather to worship God this morning, especially visitors and friends from near and far.** Please sign our guest book or complete a visitor's card (found in the pew rack) and place it in the offering plate. There is an elevator in our building, which makes every floor accessible. Please join us for refreshments and conversation after worship.

**During flu season,** please feel free to pass the peace as you are comfortable: with a handshake or hug, or an elbow tap, fist bump, head nod or kind smile if more distance seems healthier. Be aware we have hand sanitizer in the back of the sanctuary. And if you have not yet gotten a flu shot and are able to, please do!

**The Call to Worship** is based on the baptismal liturgy of the Reformed Church in America. The Confession is adapted from the work of by the Rev. Dr. David Bahr.

**Hearing assist devices are available for your use. Please ask an usher.**

**First Church is an accessible building.** We have an elevator so you can reach every floor.



An Automated External Defibrillator “**AED**” is located in the lobby attached to the wall outside of the **workroom**.

**After A Word with Children**, children age 4 and under are welcome in the Nursery. Children 4-12 are invited to be a part of Children and Worship.

**Pocket Prayer Shawls are available at today’s Worship.** Please ask one of our greeters and they can provide a basket of pocket prayer shawls to choose from. Pocket Prayer Shawls are made and filled with prayers and can be given to someone in need of comfort, healing, or a reminder of the closeness of God.

**The flowers this morning are given** in loving memory of Bill and Sandra Staats.

**Thanks to everyone who contributed so generously to our last Overflow Homeless Shelter Dinner.** Our next dinner is February 8th. The theme is “Chicken and Chicken dishes”. Sign-up at the Hospitality table. Contact Mary Bon at 463-4449 or [maryebon@verizon.net](mailto:maryebon@verizon.net) for more info if you’ve got questions - and THANK YOU!

**FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY:**

We will be collecting “**shampoo**” for the First Church Food Pantry. Please bring your offering for our Food Pantry guests to church and lay it in the box near the communion table. Shampoo, and the other items listed for the coming months cannot be purchased with food stamps, and yet they are necessary for any household on a daily basis for good health and hygiene. We’ll dedicate this offering during our time of prayer. Thank you for reaching out to help your neighbors in need.

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER UPDATE**

We have moved to an online newsletter beginning January 2019. 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 or prefer a hard copy, we will mail you a paper copy of the monthly newsletter. The deadline for the February issue is January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**JOIN THE WEATHERVANES ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16TH AT 12:30 P.M.** in Zimmerman Hall. Bring a sandwich. Dessert and beverages will be served. Guest speaker Sharon Alley will present the topic "How is Albany Helping Immigrants?" Please contact Audrey Ming (518) 456-5485 to let her know you are coming.

**JANUARY 20: Potluck lunch, Congregational Meeting** and Celebration of Jeffrey Curry! You don't want to miss it. We will receive a collection of cards and gifts for Jeff at lunch.

**FIRST CHURCH READERS MEETS JANUARY 27<sup>TH</sup>** after worship to discuss *A Dictionary of Mutual Understanding: A Novel* by Jackie Copleton. It follows a family from prewar Japan through the utter horror of August 9, 1945 to the struggle to adapt to post war life. Explore themes of heartbreak, guilt and family secrets, and get a glimpse into Japanese culture and traditions before, during and after WW II.

**FIRST ANNUAL STATEWIDE ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY DAY  
NEW POLITICS, NEW ACTION, NEW BUDGET  
NEW HOPE FOR ALL OF NEW YORK**

Are you interested in connecting your faith to issues of social justice and building a more equitable society? Join Christians from across New York State, representatives of the New York State Council of Churches and other secular and religious partners in Albany this **February 27, 9:30am – 4pm at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 275 State St. Albany.**

This day-long event begins with spiritual grounding, followed by basic advocacy training, workshops and then visits to the offices of our elected officials. There is a \$25 registration fee for each person participating, to cover lunch, materials, and other costs. Register here: <http://nyscoc.org/events/nys-ecumenical-advocacy-day-in-albany-ny>

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact The Reverend Peter Cook, Executive Director, New York State Council of Churches, New York Conference, United Church of Christ, [Pcook@Nyscoc.org](mailto:Pcook@Nyscoc.org) or 508-380-8289.

## **THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH**

Sunday	1/13	<b>First Sunday after the Epiphany</b> 10:30 am      Worship Service - Sanctuary The Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden, preaching Children & Worship (during worship) Post Service: Coffee & Conversation 12:00 pm      Board of Trustees Meeting
Monday	1/14	9:00 am – 11:30 am – Food Pantry Open 11:30 am      Prayer Shawl Meeting – Parlor 1:30 pm      Staff Meeting
Tuesday	1/15	12:00 pm      Adult Bible Study
Wednesday	1/16	9:00 am – 11:30 am – Food Pantry Open 12:00 pm      AA Meeting 12:00 pm      Prayer at Noon 12:30 pm      Weathervanes
Thursday	1/17	7:00 pm      NO CHOIR REHEARSAL
Sunday	1/20	<b>Second Sunday after the Epiphany</b> 10:30 am      Worship Service - Sanctuary The Rev. Lynn Caman Bodden, preaching Children & Worship (during worship) Post Service: Coffee & Conversation