

The First Church **FAMILY**

*The First Church in Albany · Founded in 1642
Reformed Church in America*

June 2017

WORSHIP:

- 4 **Pentecost Sunday**
 9:00 am Drive-In Worship (Communion)
 10:30 am Sanctuary Service (Communion)
 Post-service: Coffee & Conversation
- 11 **Trinity Sunday**
 9:00 am Drive-In Worship
 10:30 am Sanctuary Service
 Post-service: Continuing the Conversation: Where is God Leading Us?
- 18 **Second Sunday after Pentecost (Father's Day)**
 9:00 am Drive-In Worship
 10:30 am Sanctuary Service
 (Installation of Deacons & Elders)
 Post-service: Coffee & Conversation
- 25 **Third Sunday after Pentecost**
 10:00 am Clee Outdoor Worship Service
 Post-service: Coffee & Conversation

Our Sunday morning service may be found anytime at www.firstchurchinalbany.org.

FAMILY is published eleven times a year by First Church in Albany, 110 North Pearl Street, Albany, NY 12207-2231

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Worship services this summer include both the 9 am drive-in worship and the regular Sunday morning worship in the sanctuary as well as the FOCUS worship services when we will join with the other FOCUS covenant congregations on the first Sundays in July, August and September.

June 4 is Pentecost Sunday. The Rev. Craig Hoffman will be the guest preacher at both the 9:00 a.m. drive-in and 10:30 a.m. sanctuary services. The Lord's Supper will be celebrated.

At the May congregational meeting Theresa Brewer and Bill Kendall were elected to the office of deacon. Norma Jean Ballou and Rebecca Mondore were elected to the office of elder. The service of ordination and installation will take place at the 10:30 service on June 18.

On Sunday, June 25, worship will be held at 10 a.m. in Clee Park, weather permitting. The *Route Fifty 5* brass quintet will also be joining us for that worship service.

Throughout the rest of the summer drive-in worship is at 9:00 a.m. and the sanctuary service is at 10:00 a.m. – except for the first Sundays in July, August and September when we join with the other FOCUS congregations in combined worship services at 9:30 a.m. Drive-in worship will also continue as usual on those Sundays with worship and celebration of the Lord' Supper at 9 a.m.

Sincerely,
John D. Paarlberg

Drive-In Offering

The special offerings received at the Drive-In Worship this summer will be designated for Koinonia Primary Care/Compassion in Action, a ministry providing access to quality primary and mental health services for the underserved in West Hill and surrounding neighborhoods in Albany. Koinonia Primary Care, under the leadership of Dr. Robert Paeglow, has been serving people in Albany since 2002.

I've come to the realization that life is not designed for our comfort, or pleasure, but for us to discover our gifts and contribute what we can to make life better for others. Dr. Robert Paeglow

At Home with the WORD

Daily Bible Readings from the Common Lectionary

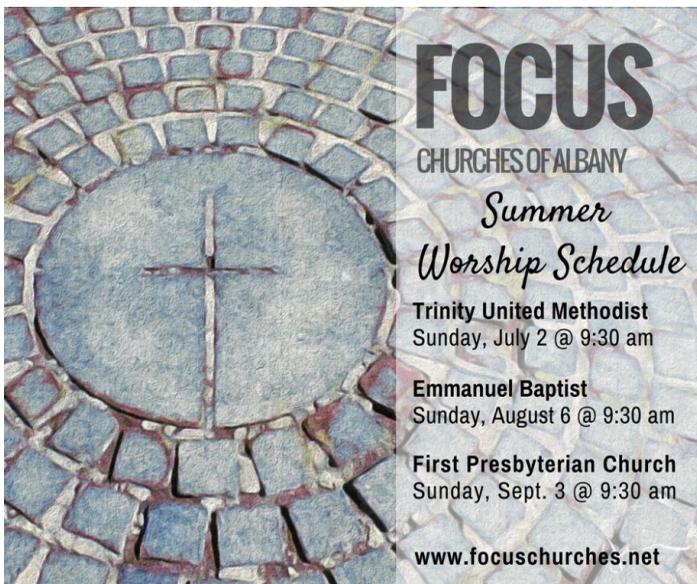
June 1st - June 30th Now available online at: www.rca.org/resources/home-word

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. 1 Corinthians 12:3-13 | 16. Romans 5:1-8 |
| 2. John 20:19-23 | 17. Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23) |
| 3. John 7:37-39 | 18. Second Sunday after Pentecost |
| 4. Pentecost | 19. Genesis 21:8-21 |
| 5. Genesis 1:1-13 | 20. Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 |
| 6. Genesis 1:14-25 | 21. Jeremiah 20:7-13 |
| 7. Genesis 1:26-2:4 | 22. Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18 |
| 8. Psalm 8 | 23. Romans 6:1-11 |
| 9. 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 | 24. Matthew 10:24-39 |
| 10. Matthew 28:16-20 | 25. Third Sunday after Pentecost |
| 11. Trinity Sunday | 26. Genesis 22:1-14 |
| 12. Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7) | 27. Psalm 13 |
| 13. Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 | 28. Jeremiah 28:5-9 |
| 14. Exodus 19:2-8 | 29. Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 |
| 15. Psalm 100 | 30. Romans 6:12-23 |

Drive-In & FOCUS Worship Services

Drive-in worship services began Sunday, May 7, and will be held each Sunday at 9:00 am through September 3 with the exception of the last Sunday in June (June 25) when we will worship at 10 am in Clee Park. Drive-In Worship services include special music

and we depend on the generosity of guest musicians to supply music for our services. We gather in the Sheridan Avenue parking lot and in Clee Park for a half-hour worship service led from the outdoor pulpit.



FOCUS
CHURCHES OF ALBANY
Summer
Worship Schedule

Trinity United Methodist
Sunday, July 2 @ 9:30 am

Emmanuel Baptist
Sunday, August 6 @ 9:30 am

First Presbyterian Church
Sunday, Sept. 3 @ 9:30 am

www.focuschurches.net

The FOCUS congregations will worship together at 9:30 am the first Sunday of July (Trinity United Methodist), August (Emmanuel Baptist) and September (First Presbyterian Church). There will not be a worship service in the First Church sanctuary on those Sundays. Drive-in worship will be held each Sunday at 9 am through the summer.

Heritage Sunday Recap

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

I Corinthians 12



Thank you for a glorious concert and an inspiring Worship Service!

Our Heritage Weekend in May was a great success thanks to many, many hands and hearts making light work. The thank yous for this **weekend are numberless (or too numerous to note,)** but here are a few! Thank you! thankyou! thank you for a great weekend.

To the Anniversary Committee - Tom Allison, Ian Leet, James Folts, Shirley Bone, Joyce Recene, Jeanne Bianchine and Mary Bon for your great ideas, amazing energy, constant work, perseverance, stick-to-it-ive-ness: for long-range planning, meetings, details, events (future and past,) tours, calendars, receptions, emails, good humor, and hope!
Thank you!

To all the people behind the scenes who made the work seem effortless and joyful, both on Friday and on Sunday: cooks, bakers, buyers, setter-uppers, ushers, cashiers, cleaner-uppers, helpers, haulers, money counters, book and cd sellers, book authors and cd performers, singers, musicians, tour leaders and optimists. Thank You!

TO BERRY BERKUM, our guest organist from The Netherlands for a great concert and for helping us see that we can reach out to many people in many different ways and touch them with music!

To the Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and the congregation of First Church who, through your steadfastness, work, prayer, funds, faith and hope, support the many aspects of our common ministry to each other and to the wider community. Thank You!

To the staff– for planning, imagination, effort, cheerfulness, optimism and hardwork, ministering to all with grace and hope. Thank You!

And if you missed it, there is always next time!

Welcome Back to the Capital District Gregg and Vicki Mast!

Welcome home reception for Gregg and Vicki Mast!

We are delighted to share the news that Drs. Gregg and Vicki Mast will greet old and new friends at the First Church in Albany on Sunday, June 25th between 3 PM and 5 PM. Gregg and Vicki are retiring at the end of June and returning to their home in East Nassau. This will be an opportunity to welcome them back to the Capital District after their 15-year absence and to honor Gregg for his service as President of New Brunswick Theological Seminary. A new book in the Historical Series in Gregg's honor, edited by Al Janssen and bearing the title *A Ministry of Reconciliation*, will also be available for purchase. We ask that you respond to Ramona Larsen at rlarsen@nbts.edu or call [732-247-5241 Ext. 350](tel:732-247-5241) at by June 20th, if you can join the festivities.

First Church Readers Group Will Meet June 4th



The First Church Readers will meet June 4th after worship to discuss

Lady Copy Makes Trouble by Amy Stewart. Based on the true story of the first woman Deputy Sheriff and her struggles and adventures in the early 1900s where women who eschewed the traditional roles of homemaker and mother had to fight to find a place in a man's world. Got a book you think would be good summer reading? A book

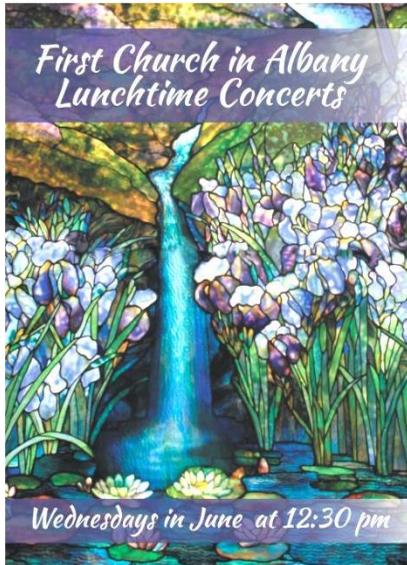
that you think the book group would like to read? Pass it on to Mary Bon at Marybon@firstchurchinalbany.org or 463-4449.

The Weathervanes

Israel/Palestine Presentation

Join the Weathervanes for fellowship, lunch, and a program on Wednesday, June 21st, at 12:30 p.m. in Zimmerman Hall after the Noontime Concert. Bring a sandwich. Coffee, tea, and dessert will be served. After lunch, there will be an Israel/Palestine presentation from the interfaith's group's recent trip. Please telephone Audrey Ming (456-5485) to let her know you plan to attend.

Spring Fling Concerts Wednesdays in June at Noon



Join us for a series of noon-time concerts in our sanctuary each Wednesday in June from 12:00 PM to 12:30 PM. We'll have special music from our soloists as well as guest instrumentalists.

- June 7 David Bon-Keen, bassoon and Neil Keen, piano
- June 14 A Bach Tribute – Cantata 56 *Ich will den Kreuzstab gerne tragen* (I Will Carry my Cross Willingly) with Peter Subers, baritone; Kelly Jo Lockwood, oboe; Gene Marie Callahan, piano
- June 21 Duets for flute and guitar with Paul Quigley, guitar and Jacqueline Wright, flute
- June 28 Mozart Alleluia with Rose Hunsberger, soprano and Michael Clement, pianist

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Each 3rd Monday of the month, 8-9 of us meet to knit and crochet prayer shawls. To date over 75 have been made and 65 have been given to those who are grieving, healing, facing surgery, being baptized and for other significant needs.

When a shawl is made, we begin our gathering with prayer and end with prayer. We pray as we knit and each shawl is blessed when completed.

We prayerfully make both shawls that are worn around shoulder and laid on laps and we make pocket prayer shawls. You will see pocket shawls in baskets at the doorways of our sanctuary and in the Parlor. They are there for anyone to take and hold for themselves or to give to others. These are also available at Drive In Worship.

Join us in the fall (we will end our gatherings after June, for the summer) to make more shawls. Also please see one of us if you feel a shawl should be given to someone in

need. Please keep us in prayer as we minister to the needs of God's Beloved here at First Church and in our community.

Blessings and Peace,

The Prayer Shawl Ministry: Ella Campbell, Jean Lamere, Cindy Gillespie, Gert Dorn, Kathie Monthie, Joline Mondore, Mary Weijola and Rev. Sue Cox

Camp Fowler

Is your child or grandchild registered for summer camp at Camp Fowler? Some children (in grades 3-8) from the church are planning to register for "Mini Una Tierra," June 25-29 (Sunday to Thursday). Pastor John Paarlberg will be one of the cabin counselors that week. Other weeks (both in-camp and out-camp) for other ages groups are also available. Or consider going with the whole family to Family Camp, August 21-25. For more information and to register go to the Camp Fowler website. <http://www.campfowler.org/online-registration> First Church will cover up to half the registration cost and additional aid is available. Please contact Pastor Paarlberg or the church office.

Choir Picnic June 8th on Staats Island

Our annual CHOIR PICNIC is Thursday, June 8th at 6:00pm. Bill Staats has kindly offered to host the choir again on beautiful Staats Island.

- COME: for walks by the river, time to talk and visit fun, food and of course singing!
- SEE: The Amazing 1693 Historic Staats Homestead, set in by the bucolic Hudson River!
- BRING: a dish to pass, walking shoes, bug stuff, rain gear,and your voice for Bill's Famous "SING-ALONG"!

Its one of the ways we say thank you to our choir for the great job they do to enrich the life of our congregation throughout the year.

Rev. Susan Vincent-Cox Attending Program

Shalem Institute in Washington DC: 2- Year Program in Spiritual Guidance Beginning July 24th Rev. Susan Vincent-Cox will be attending a 10 day residency with 25 other professionals from around the USA, training for Spiritual Direction/Guidance.

Spiritual Direction is:

- **a relationship of spiritual companionship in one-to-one or small group contexts.** Here time together is often described as a form of prayer where we open ourselves to the experience of the loving presence of God. We talk about our every-day experience but our primary focus is on our experience/relationship to God and what God is doing in our lives or communities.
- **a contemplative practice** where we are helped to know and hear and trust our own relationship to God and to seek our own spiritual way/practices of connecting with God. It is learning "holy listening" and understanding that what is received is a pure gift, given when and as God chooses.

- **where we are guided to be aware and live into the “loving presence of God”** because in our Christian context, we “live and move and have our being” in God (Acts 17:28). Brother Lawrence, the 17th century Carmelite friar, said contemplation is “the loving gaze that finds God everywhere.”

Because people use “contemplation” to describe especially profound qualities of prayer and experience, we often associate it with silence and stillness—perhaps even withdrawal from the world. Classically, however, it means immediate open presence “in the world,” directly perceiving and lovingly responding to the world. Thus contemplation is not necessarily quiet and still. It may be very active and noisy 😊. (Shalem website)

The Shalem Spiritual Guidance Program offers both academic resources and experiential support in 2 intensive residencies (summers) and at home study (extensive reading, and reflective papers). Participants are required to be in spiritual direction themselves, to be in a peer group with other spiritual directors, and to be guiding at least 2 others in one-on-one relationships. (Learn more about Shalem and its programs at *Shalem.org*.)

How will this training nurture small groups and other programs at First Church?

In “after service” gatherings for “Changing the Conversation” this past year, several of our congregation members said they felt church life and worship are where we most want to experience spiritual connection and growth. In our church we do this by seeking to learn and grow through thought-provoking sermons, by serving others in need (promoting justice), and in finding deeper connection and devotion to God. Our members said they felt it was important that we have spirit-filled worship and that more of us participate in small groups, where we can find more spiritual connection to one another and God.

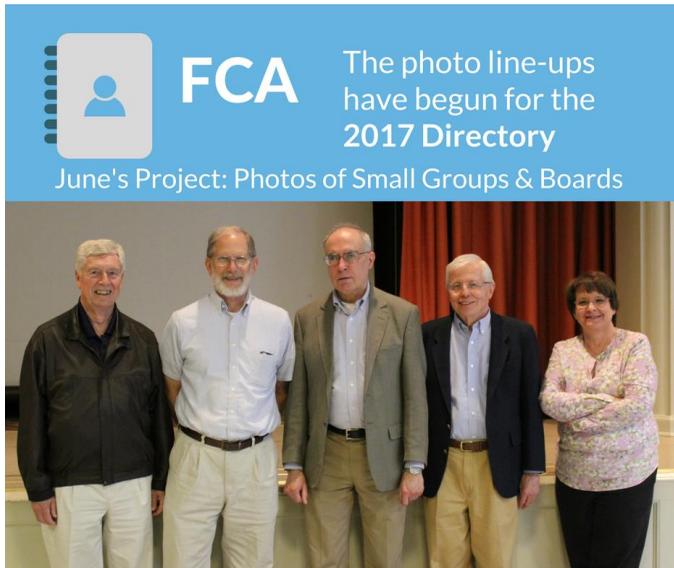
Spiritual Direction is a way that we can better discern and feel strengthened in knowing God in all of these ways. We hope to offer spiritual direction more in small groups, retreats, and individual time with one another and our pastors in the year to come.

One last thing. Ella Campbell also attended Shalem’s Spiritual Guidance Program and is an experienced Spiritual Guide 😊

Room for All National Conference

Room for All National Conference: The theme for RfA’s 2017 conference, “A Kaleidoscope of Intersections,” focuses on the multiple identities that LGBTQ people embody and which shape their experiences; specifically, the intersections of LGBTQ identity and race, faith expression, and life journey. Full details are at <https://roomforall.com/events/national-conferences>, including a link to online registration. If you need help with registration, please call [201-364-4538](tel:201-364-4538) or see Marilyn Paarlberg. Early-bird discount registration deadline: July 28. Final deadline: August 25.

The Next Church Directory. June Update



June's Project: Photos of Small Groups & Boards

Plans are coming together for a new directory for First Church. This month we are in the midst of taking photos of all the small groups and boards before the summer begins. All photos will be taken by staff and our talented member photophiles. All of the photos will include the option for everyone to print their own. We'll need some volunteers. The bulk of the work will be done during this summer and early September so that the directory can be ready for the interim pastor. If you are going to be away for the summer you'll need to make arrangements to have photos done before you go. More info soon!

Presentation on Israel/Palestine Interfaith Trip

Last February an interfaith group (Jewish, Christian, Muslim) traveled together to Israel and Palestine. Several members of First Church (Ian Leet, Becky Hudak, Marilyn and John Paarlberg) were a part of the group. They and their fellow travelers will give a presentation on the trip on Wednesday, June 21, at 7 p.m. at First Church. People from other churches and faith groups are also invited.

Each tour member will share reflections on a different aspect of the trip, which included visits to historic and holy sites important to each of the three Abrahamic faiths; sharing of perspectives among Christians, Jews, and Muslims; and dialog with leaders of organizations working for justice and peace in the region and an end to the occupation. Time will be available for questions and comments. After the presentations you are invited to stay and enjoy a variety of Middle Eastern desserts and continue the conversation.

Rev. Cameron Monthly Brunch

Rev. Bill Cameron began gathering a group for lunch on the first Thursday of the month. The group continues to meet each month at the Gateway Diner, 899 Central Ave. in Albany. Anyone can join us starting at 12:15 and stay until you wish to leave. Each person pays for their own meal. Contact Donna E. Schultz at deschultz07@aol.com or 518.429.1255.

Clee Park Goes to the Dogs

This summer Clee Park will be the home of a very special dog we are naming, “Cleo the Clee Park Dog”. Cleo will be part of the Downtown Albany Business Improvement District (BID) 2017 outdoor public Placemaking exhibit, *Downtown is Pawsome*.

A call for artists was issued and First Church’s submission was accepted! The public art project will feature 20 three-foot-tall sculptures based on Albany’s famous canine resident and local landmark Nipper the Dog, customized and placed on display at locations throughout Downtown from June 2017 through May 2018.

Here are parts of the application to help to explain this sculpture:

Why does this project interest you?

In the heart of the Downtown BID is a food pantry that many are not aware of. Yet, since May 2016 the number of food pantry guest has doubled! The First Church Food Pantry serves 150 families each month. This project would be a tremendous opportunity to raise awareness of the need and of the help families in our area are receiving. All proceeds from this project will go directly to the food pantry.

Describe your artistic vision for your sculpture:

The vision for this project is to create a collage using food labels wraps from food cans tastefully applied to cover the dog. The dog will “sit” in Clee Park. Alongside the dog will be a “food bowl” where people can donate food to the First Church Food Pantry.



What medium(s) do you intend to use for your sculpture?

The outside paper wraps from a variety of cans of food collected by members of First Church as well as from food cans wraps brought back to the Food Pantry from the Food Pantry guests will be used. They will be applied with glue and sealed. An oversized container resembling a dog food dish will be fitted with a lid.

How can you help? Between now and June 16th could you save the paper food wrapper from cans, jars and food bags and bring them into Church? We will have a box in the lobby.

On Saturday, June 17 any artists are invited to help with the Cleo’s collage. We will meet in Zimmerman Hall. Please call or email Jeanne at Jeanne@firstchurchinalbany.org.

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The deadline for the Summer issue of *FAMILY* is June 15.

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Thank you

- The family of Tecquan S. Anderson thanks the First Church Family for their cards and prayers. God Bless, Deborah Anderson

Memorial

- In memory of Rev. Lynn Joosten a gift was received from Laurence & Rebecca Joosten for the Lynn T. Joosten Scholarship Fund
- In celebration of the life of Beatrice Gray a gift has been received from Alexander Gleason for the Clee Park Memorial Fund.

In Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of BR. Paul-Allen Carey FSD, who passed away on April 24, 2017.

Our sympathy is extended to the Cheryl Gowie on the loss of her Aunt, Carolyn Gowie Wishmyer (1923-2017). She was buried on April 29, 2017, at Arlington National Cemetery having passed away on February 7, 2017. Cheryl's aunt had been employed by the Central Intelligence Agency and had spent many years in the Middle East and the Indian subcontinent.

Sympathy is extended to Deborah Anderson and Joanna Brown and family in the death of Deborah's grandson, Tecquan Shatir Anderson.

Congratualtions:

Ian & Edith on their 50th Year Wedding Anniversary



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