

# First Church in Albany

Founded in 1642

## THE FAMILY

### June 2021



### *First Church Readies for the Mission Field*

by Monica Marsh



In July, a group will be traveling to Wilmington, Delaware to work with 400 teenagers and adults to rehab homes for elderly folks who have limited resources for that fresh coat of paint, let alone a porch upgrade and installing wheelchair ramps. The team members are Monica Marsh, Andy Mondore, Erica Bliss, Imani Brewer, Keith Curry, Josh Bliss, Kaitlyn Bliss, Haleigh Bliss, Mackenzie Ballou, Caleb Ballou and Sanayah Bell. The trip is from July 11-17.



Our group will stay in a local school, sleep on air mattresses, as well as worship and praise God with songs. We will be taking prayer shawls with us to give to the residents we will be serving. Thank you to the prayer shawl ministry for providing the shawls. Please keep us in your prayers. We will see you in the fall for a post-service program to share our experience.

### *In This Issue*

Pastor's Mashona's Letter	2
Daily Lectionary Bible Readings	2
Pentecost 2021	3
FCIA Parking, Inc. May Update	4
Meetings & Groups	4
FCIA Food Pantry News	5
Birthdays	6
Memorials	6
Prayer Concerns	6

### *Sharing with Our Neighbors*

We are aware of the many neighbors that pass by our Sheridan Ave. entrance each day. As a way to reach out, we have created a Free Children's Book display outside our door. The first day, we had several people stop and peruse the offerings. We were happy to see that some of the books were headed to new homes.



**On a related note:** We are in search of a new children's book for our **StoryWalk®**. We post the laminated pages of a children's book along the fence on North Pearl Street and Orange Street in front of the church. Families can walk along and share a story in the outdoors and finish up with some play in Clee Park! If you have any suggestions please contact [srpastor@firstchurchinalbany.org](mailto:srpastor@firstchurchinalbany.org) or [office@firstchurchinalbany.org](mailto:office@firstchurchinalbany.org).

## From Pastor Mashona...



Growing up, I loved when my mom made deviled eggs. Even thinking about it now decades later fills me with delight! When I got old enough, I asked her for the recipe. Easily, she rambled off her ingredients. Of course, nothing was measured. A pinch of this and a splatter of that! I would attempt it and my

recipe would never taste the same. Then I would request the recipe again. My mom would rattle off the same ingredients. I would make another attempt only to be met with disappointment. No matter what, my deviled eggs did not taste like mom's. Was my mom holding back on me? Was there a missing ingredient? My mother used to tease me and say that she made her food with extra scoops of love. Was love the missing ingredient? No! My mother stopped making her famous deviled eggs in the last few years. Even her recipe did not taste the same to her anymore. The recipe was the same. The love was the same. However, we all were different. Our taste buds have changed through the years. The family still gathers, but now our interest has shifted. The last family gathering was catered! Now do not get me wrong, there are still friendly competitive cook-offs. My oldest brother and brother-in-law can spend hours trash talking about who makes the better grilled dishes. However, we have all changed and so has our desires. We gather because we need to be in each other's presence. The feelings of delight are still there but now we look in new places.

That is a long way of including you in on a conversation I had with one of First Church leaders. We spoke about how we will return to sanctuary worship, but things will not be the same. Even if we print the bulletins exactly as we always have in the past. Things will not be the same. Even if we sit in the same places. Things will not be the same. Even if we sing the same songs. Just like my mom's deviled eggs, we are different post-pandemic shutdown.

So, what can we do? We can look to connect with God in new places during worship. We can begin this month praying for the return to sanctuary worship. We can look around and miss the beautiful people who are no longer with us. We can look around in gratitude for the new and familiar faces who are with us. In the journey for the children of Israel there were times when they lived through exile. Recently, in worship we visited Ezekiel 31 the Valley of Dry Bones. This passage helped encourage God's children in the hope and preparation of their return. As we return to sanctuary worship let us begin spiritually for our return. Please include prayer and reaching out to others to encourage them.

For the past 12 months we have been in exile or survival mode. There has been no master plan or grand scheme to change things. Change has been thrust upon us. The goal is outliving COVID-19. As we reenter sanctuary worship we need your love, prayers, and participation. I look forward to not only seeing you as we return, but living missionally towards the building of God's Kingdom along with you.

### Bible Readings for June 2021

Season after Pentecost—Year B	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
<b>Second Sunday after Pentecost—June 6, 2021</b>	1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15)	Psalm 130	2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1	Mark 3:20-35
<b>Third Sunday after Pentecost—June 13, 2021</b>	1 Samuel 15:34-16:13	Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15	2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17	Mark 4:26-34
<b>Fourth Sunday after Pentecost—June 20, 2021</b>	1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49	Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32	2 Corinthians 6:1-13	Mark 4:35-41
<b>Fifth Sunday after Pentecost—June 27</b>	2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27	Psalm 30	2 Corinthians 8:7-15	Mark 5:21-43

*These readings come from the Revised Common Lectionary. [www.lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu](http://www.lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu)*

# Pentecost Sunday at First Church

## May 23, 2021





Parking, Inc.

by FCIA Parking, Inc. Officers

The Sheridan Avenue parking lot officially opened for paid parking on May 1, 2021 and began accepting hourly, daily and monthly paid parking. FCIA Parking, Inc. as it completes its first month of managing lot operations, is very encouraged about use of the church's parking lot.

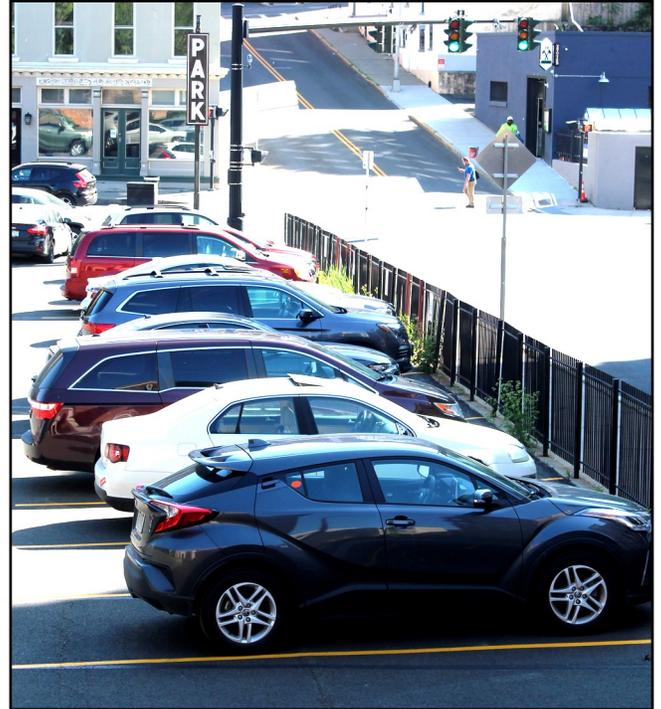
Here are use figures for May 2021 which support our optimism

- 30 Monthly Parking Permits were issued
- 600+ individuals paid to park via our kiosks

FCIA Parking Inc. reaffirms a commitment to:

1. Facilitate free parking for members of First Church.
2. Accommodate parking for church special events.

FCIA Parking, Inc. continues to strive to develop and maintain an income stream for First Church by providing quality and affordable parking in downtown Albany.



***Weathervanes — No Meetings***  
from Audrey Ming



We have determined there will be no meetings until at least September. In the fall we will reassess the situation and determine if it will be safe to resume our activities. We will keep you posted.

***Join our Bible Study on Tuesday***



The bible study that had been meeting on Monday's at noon via Zoom has been 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](mailto:ian.leet@outlook.com).

***Centering Prayer In-Person!***



Centering Prayer has resumed in-person on Wednesdays 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 continue to offer the conference call option as well. Centering prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship.

***Emails Are Working!!!***



- Rev. Mashona Walston  
[srpastor@firstchurchinalbany.org](mailto:srpastor@firstchurchinalbany.org)
- Colleen Lais  
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## *The FCIA Food Pantry needs volunteers this summer...*



We all wait for the summer months when we can vacation, soak up the sun, have picnics and relax. For food assistance programs like our own food pantry, this can also be a challenging time of year. Families who have relied on school meal programs now have to provide those meals for their families. There are summer feeding programs, but one such program at the JC Club Feeding Center has paused it's offering in light of recent violence in its Albany neighborhood. This may bring additional needs into our city pantries.

FCIA Food Pantry Coordinator Lorraine Houk has reached out and asked that we share a need specific to our program with the First Church family. The FCIA Food Pantry is in need of summer volunteers. We have a couple of volunteers that have other obligations over the summer months and we need to find some individuals willing to step in and take their place. The pantry is open on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9am to 11am. We ask that you pray about the possibility that you may be called to be that help that we are looking for. If you have any questions or would like to sign up, please contact Lorraine via email at [lorraine@focuschurch.net](mailto:lorraine@focuschurch.net).

*"...for I was hungry and you gave me food,  
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,  
I was a stranger and you welcomed me..."*

Matthew 25:35

### *It's June!*

*Help the Pantry this month by getting your Fight Hunger Bags at Hannaford.*



The First Church Food Pantry has been chosen by local Hannaford store leadership to benefit from their Fight Hunger Bag Program in June.

**Purchase the Fight Hunger Bag at the Hannaford at 900 Central Ave. in Albany for \$2.50 during the month of June and \$1 will be donated from each bag directly to help feed the neighbors who visit our Food Pantry.**

We ask that you take inventory of your reusable shopping bags and stock up on Fight Hunger bags at the Central Ave. Hannaford in June. Share this with your friends and family, so they can help too!

### *Pantry Stats For May 2021*

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

#### **May 2021**

- 1,278 Meals were served
- 54 Households
- 5 Children
- 51 Adults
- 15 Seniors

Thanks again to Bethany Church for their weekly food donations!





## June Birthdays

- 4 Monica Marsh
- 5 Jean Lamere
- 6 Genevieve Paeglow
- 7 Judith Utley-Suess
- 8 Marilyn Bradley
- 16 Ethan Staats
- 20 Lark Parmalee
- 20 Jay Reohr
- 22 Nicole Hall
- 22 Stephen Reohr
- 24 Dennis Kernahan
- 24 Helen Otterness
- 27 Marilyn Fink
- 27 Mia Westman
- 28 Jesse Farrell Patterson
- 28 Lianne Parmalee

### 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 office@firstchurchinalbany.org or call the office at 518-463-4449. Thank you.

## Memorials

- In celebration of the life of **Jeannette Hall**, a gift has been received from Shirley Bone for the FCIA Food Pantry.
- In celebration of the life of **Mary Steen**, a gift has been received from Shirley Bone for the FCIA Food Pantry.
- In celebration of the life of **Joline Mondore**, a gift has been received from Kitt Jackson for the Weathervanes.



## 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 office@firstchurchinalbany.org



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family and friends of Wayne Sivaslian</li> <li>• Family and friends of Jane Ward</li> <li>• Family and friends of Joline Mondore</li> <li>• Family and friends of Lin (Gowie) Delaney</li> <li>• Family and friends of Agnes Hevi</li> <li>• Family and friends of Lashon Turner</li> <li>• Gabriella, for the loss of her son</li> <li>• Haleigh Bliss</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mary Weijola</li> <li>• Clarice Milliken</li> <li>• Cheryl Gowie</li> <li>• Larry Underdue</li> <li>• Judith Suess &amp; Leroy</li> <li>• Kathy Stallmer (Monthie family)</li> <li>• Brown family</li> <li>• Pagerey family</li> <li>• Steve Hoffman</li> <li>• Ada</li> <li>• Ginger</li> <li>• Charles Welge</li> <li>• Olivia Gaydushek</li> <li>• Staff and Leaders</li> </ul> |
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### 787 Clinton Ave Ramp Update

Construction continues 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 Clinton Ave. ramp heading south on 787 remains open, but may be reduced to one lane.

**Deadline for the Family:** Please submit information for the Family by **June 25** for our July issue, which will be out June 30, due to the Independence Day holiday. Email to office@firstchurchinalbany.org..



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"OLDEST PULPIT IN AMERICA"

## First Church in Albany

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