

First Church in Albany

Founded in 1642

THE FAMILY

March 2021



MARCH 28

Palm Sunday

10:00am
Return to
Drive In
Worship

“Thank You, Pastor” for reminding me of this

From your January 2021 Sermon

Run the race set before you.
Just show up.
You can conquer
whatever your goal may be
Show up for the marathon,
the race.

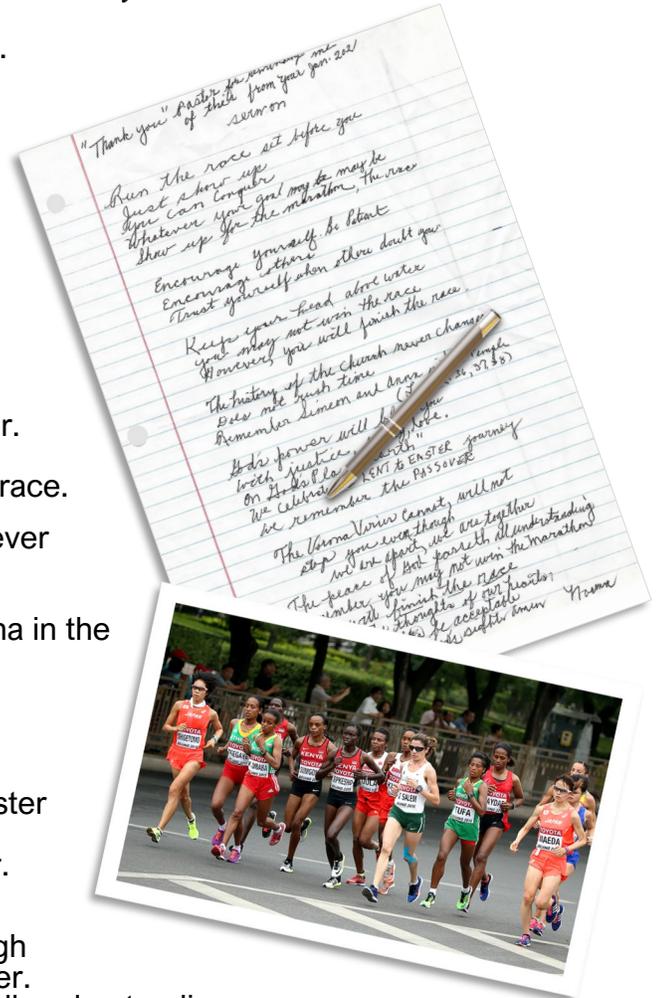
Encourage yourself.
Be patient.
Encourage others.
Trust yourself when
others doubt you.

Keep your head above water.
You may not win the race.
However, you will finish the race.

The history of the church never
changes.
Does not rush time.
Remember Simeon and Anna in the
temple (Luke 2:36-38)

God’s power will bless you
with justice, mercy, love.
On God’s Planet “Earth,”
we celebrate the Lent to Easter
journey.
We remember the Passover.

The Corona Virus cannot,
will not stop you, even though
we are apart, we are together.
The peace of God passeth all understanding.
Remember, you may not win the marathon.
You will finish the race.
May the thoughts of our hearts,
Our words be acceptable in God’s sight.
Amen.



~Senior Elder Norma Jean Ballou



MARCH IS

Women's History Month

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Weathervanes — No March 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



Centering Prayer is held each Wednesday at noon via Conference Call.

Dial in number: 425-436-6200.
Access code:586376

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

Pastor Chat



Resuming in April, on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30pm on a Zoom meeting, Pastor Mashona will cover a topic that has been suggested and then she will open a discussion. Connect with your First Church in Albany Family! Ask those questions you have been wanting to ask. The next chat is Thursday, April 8th.



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.

Contemplative Evening Prayer

JOIN US ON THURSDAYS
THROUGH MARCH 25 AT 7:30PM
VIA ZOOM



How to prepare:

Grab your prayer blankets or prayer cloths or favorite wrap. Then wrap it around your shoulders or hold it in your hands during the evening contemplative service for Lent.

**In partnership with
Westminster Presbyterian of Albany NY**

Type in the link below to join
through Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/565789833?pwd=VHNBbDQyM0w2eUJXVDhzYndtQkpVQT09>

Passcode (if prompted): 12210

Listening to the service on your phone:

If you are having trouble using Zoom to join the worship service, or would prefer to listen, you can call in and hear the service over your phone. Any phone number below should work.

- +1 646 558 8656
- +1 312 626 6799
- +1 669 900 9128

Meeting ID: 565 789 833 Passcode: 12210

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.

From Pastor Mashona...

March is an eventful time for First Church in Albany. We are continuing our journey through the season of Lent and preparing for Resurrection Sunday/Easter Sunday. On Thursday evenings, we continue our Lenten Vespers at 7:30pm with Westminster Presbyterian Church. On March 28, 2021 we celebrate Palm Sunday at the start of our Drive-In service!! Yes, we will have palms to share with you and the community.

Our mission at First Church is to share the good news of Christ by serving in the city of Albany. Thus, we look forward to lifting spirits this Easter Sunday on April 4, 2021 @ 11am. Christ arose from the grave so we too can rise from whatever circumstances plague us now!

On Easter Sunday, FCIA is hosting an outdoor Easter Egg Hunt and book give away for children in the community. Two groups are coming together to lead this effort for the children in the city of Albany between the ages of 3 and 11. This has been a challenging year for our local school district. The children, parents and educators could use some sunshine. Children & Worship along with the Library Committee will host an Easter Egg Hunt and provide free books from our library. The vision of giving away books and baskets to the community is a massive one. We invite you to join this event. Please go onto our Facebook page if you would like to purchase

and donate a book to give to a child.

As always, we ask for your prayers. Go ahead and knock on heaven's door with and for us. We pray that our current members feel lifted closer to Christ and inspired to roll up our sleeves in the work of the gospel. We also pray that on this Easter Sunday, some boy or girl see the resurrected Christ!

~Rev. Mashona



Bible Readings for March 2021

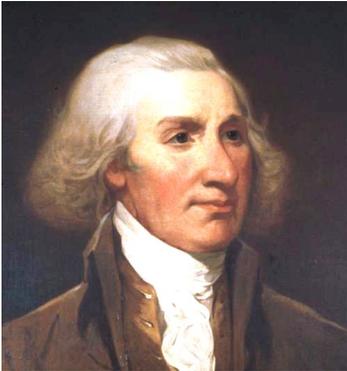
Epiphany—Year B	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Third Sunday in Lent —March 7, 2021	Exodus 20:1-17	Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22
Fourth Sunday in Lent —March 14, 2021	Numbers 21:4-9	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
Fifth Sunday in Lent —March 21, 2021	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Psalm 51:1-12	Hebrews 5:5-10	John 12:20-33
Annunciation of the Lord —March 25, 2021	Isaiah 7:10-14	Psalm 45	Hebrews 10:4-10	Luke 1:26-38
Liturgy of the Palms —March 28, 2021 Sixth Sunday in Lent		Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29		Mark 11:1-11
Liturgy of the Passion —March 28, 2021 Sixth Sunday in Lent	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Mark 14:1-15:47

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

FCIA History

PHILIP SCHUYLER—A FAMOUS SON OF FIRST CHURCH

by Jim Folts,
President, FCIA Trustees



The bronze statute of Major General Philip Schuyler which stands in front of the Albany City Hall is currently the subject of public controversy. The city government has agreed to move the statute to a location that is still undecided. The controversy arises

from the fact that Schuyler, like many other New Yorkers of his era, was a slaveholder.

Philip Schuyler was the best-known member of what is now called First Church during the later 18th century, because of his eminent services to the state and nation. He was the son of Albany Mayor Johannes Schuyler, Jr., and his wife Cornelia Van Cortlandt Schuyler. He was born November 11, 1733, and he was baptized by the *dominie* (minister) of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church on the same day, as the church record shows. As a young man Philip served in the New York provincial forces during the conflict between Britain and France known in America as the French and Indian War, receiving commissions as captain and major.

On September 7, 1755, Philip Schuyler and Catherine Van Rensselaer were married. In 1761-63 he had a new brick house built on the (then) southern outskirts of the city of Albany. The building is now the Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site. The Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Albany claimed that the 80-acre site was legally part of the church-owned "Pastures." (The tract was so-named because the church rented it to Albanians who pastured their cows and horses there.) The dispute was litigated and eventually settled.

As the political split between Great Britain and thirteen of its American colonies widened, Philip Schuyler was elected a member of the New York Assembly in 1768-1774 and a delegate to the Continental Congress which met in Philadelphia in 1775. Schuyler was commissioned a major general in the new United States Army, and he commanded the army in the northern states in the years 1775-79. He ordered actions that significantly delayed the invasion of northern New York by British General John Burgoyne,

who surrendered after the battle of Saratoga in October 1777.

After the war's end in 1783, Philip Schuyler served several terms in the New York Senate and then in the United States Senate. After 1789 Schuyler was an ally of President George Washington and Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton in supporting a strong national government. Troubled for decades by rheumatoid arthritis, Schuyler retired from public life in 1798. He continued as director of a private company that constructed and operated several locks and canals along the Mohawk River. Those improvements were the forerunner of the state-built Erie Canal which was completed from Albany to Buffalo in 1825.

The debate about the statute of Philip Schuyler has overlooked the fact that Schuyler, though he was a slaveholder, actively worked to end slavery in New York. In 1785 he was a founding member, along with Alexander Hamilton and John Jay, of the New York Manumission Society. The society pressured the New York Legislature to enact laws, in 1785 and 1788, that restricted the slave trade. In 1799 the first of several laws required gradual emancipation of enslaved people, in slow stages, a process finally completed in 1827. Schuyler's farm in Saratoga, now part of the Saratoga National Historic Park, employed most of his enslaved people. When he died in 1804, Schuyler was no longer a slaveholder.

Philip Schuyler was prominent in the life of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Albany, serving on the consistory for several periods as an elder or deacon. His funeral was held in the new church on North Pearl Street on November 21, 1804. The First Church archives contains the sexton's bill for eleven shillings for use of the pall and hearse at Schuyler's funeral—one of 48 funerals that year (18 of them for children).

(NOTE: This article is an updated version of an article that appeared in the First Church Family in 2004.)

Photo: By Mirror-image copy of a portrait of Philip Schuyler. Painted by Jacob H. Lazarus (1822-91) from a miniature painted by John Trumbull - The painting is on display at the Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site, Albany. Uploaded on 22 Aug 2004 by en:User:Fuelbottle to english Wikipedia., Public Domain,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=96403>

In Sympathy

Our sympathy and prayers are with the family and friends of these among us who have passed.

- Wayne Sivaslian
- Joline Mondore
- Jane Ward
- Agnes Hevi
- Linda Becker Heim



Memorials

- 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 Carol 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 **Jane Ward**, a gift has been received from Joyce Recene for the FCIA Food Pantry.

In light of the passing of Wayne Sivaslian, our beloved trustee and financial secretary, our process for recognizing memorial and other gifts will be transitioning. We ask for your understanding and welcome calls to the office if you have any concerns about your gift being received. Thank you for your patience.

Schedule of Worship

- March 7, 2021 — Third Sunday of Lent
- March 14, 2021 — Fourth Sunday of Lent
- March 21, 2021 — Fifth Sunday of Lent
- March 28, 2021 — Palm Sunday/ Passion Sunday

THE DRIVE-IN IS BACK March 28!!!

Thursdays during Lent
March 11, 18, 25 at 7:30pm
 In partnership with
Westminster Presbyterian Church
 Contemplative time of prayer offered on
Zoom

Outdoor services will resume in the Spring of 2021!

Zoom Worship

FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

Join us
on Sunday,
at 10am on Zoom

Please follow the Zoom link on the website or call the church office for more information. We will be happy to help!

For those who prefer listening via conference call, the number is
 (425) 436-6200, Access code:
 586376
www.firstchurchinalbany.org
 518-463-4449

Pantry Stats For January and February 2021



FCIA Food Pantry Coordinator

Lorraine Houk catches us up on the pantry activity for January and February.

January 2021

1,116 Meals were served
46 Households
6 Children
50 Adults
6 Seniors

February 2021

1,998 Meals were served
68 Households
16 Children
76 Adults
19 Seniors



Daylight Saving Time Reminder:

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on **Sunday, March 14.** This is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

March Birthdays



- 7 Victoria Staats
- 12 Leroy Suess
- 14 Sara Welge
- 20 Steven Hoffman
- 20 Colin Parmalee
- 25 Norma McClement
- 25 Kim Reohr
- 25 Ross Westhuis
- 25 Karen Van Epps
- 26 Saniya Angel Bell

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
- Gertrude Dorn
- Ginger
- Charles Welge
- Staff and Leaders

Deadline for the Family: Please submit information for the Family by March 23 for our April issue. Email items to fciaofficemanager@gmail.com.



FOUNDED IN 1642
"OLDEST PULPIT IN AMERICA"

First Church in Albany

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www.firstchurchinalbany.org