

First Church in Albany

Founded in 1642

THE FAMILY

May 2021

Happy Mother's
Day



Wishing Betsy Gorman the Best

This month, our Communications Coordinator Betsy Gorman will be ending her time as a staff member at First Church. Betsy has been working to keep our church family informed at a time when the pandemic and social distancing has made communications an evolving frontier. Staying connected has never been more challenging or more vital to our community.



Please join us in wishing Betsy all the best as her journey takes her to new places and new challenges. She is leaving to take a full-time position.

"I am deeply thankful for the opportunity to have worked with the entire First Church team. From the start, I felt valued and part of something much bigger than myself. What a mighty congregation!" ~Betsy Gorman

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Congregational Meeting Sunday May 16 after Drive-In Worship

What? Call for Annual Congregational Meeting immediately

When? Immediately following worship on Sunday, May 16, 2021

Where? Clee Park (Zimmerman Hall in case of rain)



Weathervanes — No Meetings

from Audrey Ming

Due to ongoing COVID concerns we will not have an Old Friends Luncheon this year and 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.



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.



Bible Study now 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.

Email issues at church

If you have emailed anyone with an "@firstchurchinbany.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.

Memorials



- In celebration of the life of **Linda Becker Heim**, a gift has been received from Ned and Kathie Monthie for the Lynn Joosten Scholarship Fund.

From the Family of Wayne Sivaslian

To My Church Family;

There are not enough words to fully express our heartfelt thanks for the sympathy, love and support you have extended to our family during this time of loss.

The Family of Wayne Sivaslian
(Monica, Nicole & Adam)

From the Cheryl Gowie

My good friend and cousin, Lin (Gowie) Delaney died on April 27th, after a valiant 20-year battle with breast cancer. Humor, determination, and the best experimental protocols gave her more time than predicted but less than we hoped for. Lin appreciated First Church's support through prayers and inquiries, and valued particularly, the connection she felt with members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry.



Service for Jane Ward

Our beloved Jane Ward went to be with our Savior on January 16, 2021. Jane's son Mark asked us to share that there will be a service for Jane on Saturday, May 8, 2021 at 11am. The service will be held at St. John's Lutheran Cemetery, 303 Sand Creek Rd., Colonie NY 12205. Rev. Mashona will be officiating at this service.



From Pastor Mashona...



Reminders

Heritage Sunday is May 9, 2021! We look forward to an address from Ian Leet.

Bible Study has moved to Tuesdays at 12 Noon.

Centering Prayer on Wednesdays at 12 Noon has resumed in-person and continues with the prayer call. Dial: (425) 436-6200 Code: 586376

Liturgist/Worship Leader... please sign up

Future Prayer: Would you be interested in a weekly healing prayer service?

Call me to learn more (518) 463-4449 ext 309.

Greetings,

First Church in Albany is extremely blessed! We have returned to outdoor/Drive-In Worship as of Palm Sunday. It has been wonderful! Seeing your faces without the aid of a computer screen is life giving. Easter Sunday was a delight as we hosted an Easter Egg Hunt and Book Giveaway for the children and community.

As we move into warmer weather, I hope to see more of you venture out from behind the wheels of your vehicles. Have you thought about bringing a lawn chair? Have you given thought to sitting in Clee Park during worship? What an amazing gift we have to worship under the beautiful blue sky and bright sun!

In the next few months First Church will welcome a new minister. Yes, we are hopeful and excited about serving as a host church for the Synod of Albany's Fellowship Program. This will more than likely be the new clergyperson's first fulltime ministry site. So, in the fall you will see a new face. What can you do to help prepare? Pray. Pray for the fellow and pray that we as a congregation can support this person with lots of opportunity for growth. Pray that we open our hearts to love them. Pray that we open ourselves to participate in service with them.

Also, we have another coming and going. Betsy Gorman, our Communications Coordinator is moving on to a fulltime position. Betsy has expressed her gratitude for the years she has spent with First Church and looks forward to a bright future. Did you know that Betsy has recently become a grandmother? Please join me in wishing Betsy all the best as she walks a bright path.

Finally, our story walk needs a new book. The weather is ripe for walking and the children from the local nursery enjoy Clee Park frequently. So, if you would like to recommend a new book for grades K- 3, please share. Children & Worship will consider suggestions for this book that will stay up all summer. We look forward to your suggestions.

Bible Readings for May 2021

Easter—Year B	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Sixth Sunday of Easter —May 9, 2021	Acts 10:44-48	Psalm 98	1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17
Ascension of the Lord —May 13, 2021	Acts 1:1-11	Psalm 47 or 93	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53
Seventh Sunday of Easter —May 16, 2021	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	Psalm 1	1 John 5:9-13	John 17:6-19
Day of Pentecost —May 23, 2021	Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
Trinity Sunday —May 30, 2021	Isaiah 6:1-8	Psalm 29	Romans 8:12-17	John 3:1-17
Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth —May 31, 2021	1 Samuel 2:1-10	Psalm 113	Romans 12:9-16b	Luke 1:39-57

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



by FCIA Parking, Inc. Officers

The Sheridan Avenue parking lot was fully operational as of May 1, 2021. and has begun accepting hourly, daily and monthly paid parking.

FCIA Parking, Inc. received a detailed engineering drawing of the church's parking lot with parking spaces laid out to industry standards. The lot was re-stripped to these standards on April 17, 2021.

Also, two (2) solar powered parking lot payment kiosks have been installed and tested.

The following was completed prior to May 1:

- Installation of three (3) new large signs detailing parking lot requirements/restrictions.
- Placement of individual signs for spots reserved for monthly permit holders.
- Towing signs to alert parkers to the fact that vehicle towing is in effect`
- Additional smaller signs stressing the lot is a pay to park lot.

FCIA Parking Inc. wishes to reaffirm its commitment to:

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

Future improvements

- New section of fencing along Sheridan Avenue side of the parking lot
- Lighting for over the main entrance signs. Perhaps solar or conventional
- Establish electric account with National Grid for existing parking lot lighting.
- Install automatic timer(s) to control lights.

This is an exciting time as FCIA Parking, Inc. works to develop an income stream for First Church by providing quality and affordable parking in downtown Albany.



Gardening Day at First Church Saturday Afternoon, May 8

Members and friends of First Church are invited to help remove spring annuals past their prime, plant summer flowers, and prepare our flower gardens for our Drive-In Worship services. No green thumb required--bring gloves and a gardening tool or two. Please wear your mask when you are not able to be safely socially distanced. We will meet at **1:00 p.m., Saturday, May 8.**

Be sure to have your orange parking sticker in your car's side window!

~ Parking Committee and Board of Trustees

From our mission partners...

• Focus Churches of Albany

Focus Churches has sent out their Spring Appeal Letter and reports some good news as well.

- They have been providing lunches to young adults in a job training program in the South End of Albany. They have also been preparing hot breakfasts for the young people who are working at the vaccination program at the Washington Avenue Armory.
- James Blount has been named as the Breakfast Program Coordinator.
- Noah Tubbs, a VISTA Fellow, the Program Development Coordinator, is working on FOCUS gardening projects in Center Square and South End neighborhoods in Albany, offering programs for both children and adults.

FOCUS Churches offer their thanks for your support so that they may continue to reach out in meaningful ways in our community.

Help the First Church Food Pantry and the Environment at the Same Time During the Month of June



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.

The Food Pantry has been operating throughout the pandemic lock-down to make sure our neighbors had food to eat. Guests call in their order and then pick it up at the door a little while later. Everyone stays safe and socially distanced so that we can care for one another in the best way.

We ask that you take inventory of your reusable shopping bags before month's end, 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!



Beginning Experience of the Hudson Valley invites men and women of all ages who have suffered the loss of a spouse due to death, divorce, or separation to a

HEALING WEEKEND

a program designed to help you along the road to recovery from one of life's most traumatic experiences



**St. Lawrence Retreat Center
Beacon, NY
June 4 to 6, 2021**

**Reservations required: Call Phyllis 914 261 5812 or
Janice 845 490 7466**

Email: beginningexperienceofhv@gmail.com
Website: www.beginningexperiencehv.org

**Pantry Stats
For April 2021**



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

April 2021

- 1,206 Meals were served
- 48 Households
- 6 Children
- 48 Adults
- 13 Seniors

See page 5 of this Family Newsletter for another way that you can help the pantry!

Thanks again to Bethany Church for their weekly food donations!

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.

May Birthdays



- 6 Peter Pagerey
- 7 George Kass
- 8 Tom Allison
- 10 Audrey Ming
- 10 David Mortenson
- 12 Joshua Bliss
- 15 Terry Gattie
- 17 Elizabeth Pierce
- 20 Shirley Joosten
- 21 Sylvia Insall
- 24 Nikki Ballou
- 25 Ann Burek
- 25 Katherine Gattie

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 Jane Ward
- Family and friends of Joline Mondore
- Family and friends of Lin (Gowie) Delaney
- The family of Agnes Hevi
- Mary Weijola
- Mary Steen
- Cheryl Gowie
- 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
- Ginger
- Charles Welge
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Staff and Leaders

Deadline for the Family: Please submit information for the Family by May 26 for our June issue. Email items to fciaofficemanager@gmail.com.



FOUNDED IN 1642
"OLDEST PULPIT IN AMERICA"

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www.firstchurchinalbany.org