

**First Church in Albany**  
 Founded in 1642

Drive-In  
 Worship starts  
 May 8th. See p. 4  
 to learn more!

# THE FAMILY

## May 2022

Photo by Doug Persons



**MAY IS MENTAL  
 HEALTH MONTH**



## Does Our FCIA Garden Serve as Outreach to Our Neighbors? You bet it does!

Recently, a great group of gardeners gathered to clean-up and prep the flower beds outside our Sheridan Lot doors. It was a delightful time of fellowship and service. Shirley Bone will tell you that Rev. Trey will never forget his work gloves again! He was digging in the mulch and dirt with his bare hands. (We have been known to say that Rev. Trey never fails to dig right in!) We will be planting the flowers for this season on May 21st. We would love for many to join us. We will have a light lunch (safely shared, of course!). Please RSVP so we know how much food to order.

One may ask if the gardens serve an outreach purpose. We would say, "Definitely." We can think of one woman who works nearby and frequently walks by on her lunch. She has stopped to chat about how blessed she has been by our gardens in the summer. The gardens provide a welcoming, God-honoring reception to all of our members and visitors. We are grateful for our talented crew. We pray you will join us on May 21! Get reacquainted with long-time First Church friends and make some new ones, while we plant lovely flowers in our gardens!

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**Planting Day - Saturday May 21**

May 21, 9:30am, we will be planting flowers for the upcoming season. Last week, we had a great time clearing and preparing the garden beds for the season. Many hands make quick work. Green thumb or no, we would love for you to join us. We will have a light lunch available for the crew. Please RSVP to the office at [office@firstchurchinalbany.org](mailto:office@firstchurchinalbany.org).



## From Rev. Trey...



He is risen! He is risen, *indeed!* It is the season of Easter, and I know we're enjoying the sunshine, fresh foliage, and longer days. But, we are also enjoying seeing all the ways the risen Christ shows up in the bible and in our lives.

participated in the ministry fair. It's so wonderful to get a glimpse of what God is up to here at First, and I hope you all enjoyed that, too.

I also hope that through the celebration of ministries we all might be spurred on to jump in and participate with the risen Christ in new or different ways here at First. If you feel as though there was a ministry that caught your eye on Sunday and would like to learn more about -- or even just to sign up -- please use the information below to do so!

On May 1st, we celebrated the countless ways Christ by his Spirit shows up in so many activities and ministries here at First. I'm particularly grateful for those who gave a testimony on Sunday, and those who

I pray that, as Christ repeated in so many different ways when he appeared after his resurrection, "peace be with you." - Pastor Trey



**First Church in Albany  
Ministry Fair  
May 1, 2022**

## Bible Readings for May 2022

Eastertide—Year C	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
<b>Third Sunday of Easter</b> —May 1, 2022	Acts 9:1-6	Psalm 30	Revelation 5:11-14	John 21:1-19
<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> —May 8, 2022	Acts 9:36-43	Psalm 23	Revelation 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b> —May 15, 2022	Acts 11:1-18	Psalm 148	Revelation 21:1-6	John 13:31:31-35
<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b> —May 22, 2022	Acts 16:9-15	Psalm 67	Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5	John 14:23-29
<b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b> —May 29, 2022	Acts 16:16-34	Psalm 97	Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21	John 17:20-26

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



## Weathervanes—May Luncheon

Join the Weathervanes on Wednesday, May 18th in Zimmerman Hall at 12:30 p.m. for our annual May Luncheon. We will have a catered meal and the program will be provided by organist Iteke Prins, who will teach us about the organ. There will be no charge for the meal, thanks to contributions made to Weathervanes in memory of

Joline Mondore.

Please call Audrey Ming at 518-456-5485 to let her know you are coming. We also need volunteers to help us set-up, serve, and clean-up. If you are interested in supporting the Weathervanes in this way, please contact Audrey.

COME JOIN US  
for a  
*A Night of  
Worship*

Music by Glenn Claydon  
Thursday, May 5 at 7pm  
in the Stephen James Chapel

The First Church in Albany  
110 North Pearl St. Albany NY 12207  
[www.firstchurchinalbany.org](http://www.firstchurchinalbany.org)

Join us at 6pm in Zimmerman Hall for a safe and social  
distanced Cinco de Mayo potluck dinner.

THE FIRST CHURCH  
*Group Scripture Study*

Each Tuesday at noon  
Via Zoom

For telephone users: Dial +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)  
Then enter Meeting ID: 897 4960 5068 #  
followed by Passcode: 434661#

Email Rev. Trey to get on the email list for this group  
[treytirpak@gmail.com](mailto:treytirpak@gmail.com)

CENTERING PRAYER  
with Pastor Mashona

Please join Pastor Mashona for Centering Prayer  
every Wednesday @ 12noon in The James Chapel.  
Masks are encouraged, yet optional.  
Enter via the office doors.

Also via Conference Call.  
Dial in number: (425) 436-6200  
Access code: 586376

**GUN VIOLENCE NOW**

The First Church in Albany prays for the end to gun violence in  
Albany NY, the Capital District, Statewide and in general.

**Gun violence solves nothing.**

## Changes Proposed for the Stephen James Chapel at First Church

We wanted to update the congregation: Thora Patton and Carol Wirth have left the church with a generous donation to re-do James Chapel, so that the chapel is a modern Worship space and is Food Pantry-friendly. Ideas include removing pews and choir pews, adding glass entrance doors that are handicap accessible, putting the lecterns on wheels (so they can be moved around the room), new lighting, paint, flooring, blinds, and pew chairs. If you have any ideas, please see Rev. Mashona, Jay Reohr, Ned Monthie, Monica Marsh or you may place your suggestion in the offering plate at worship.



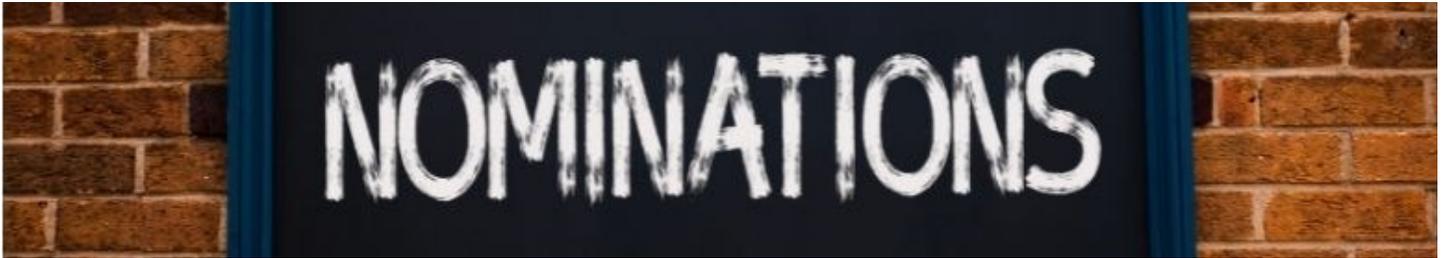
Our summer schedule starts Sunday, May 8th.

We will have **one service**, a drive-in service, through Labor Day.

We are in need of volunteer parking ushers for Sunday morning. Contact Rev. Trey for more info.

The Drive-In Service will be followed by the Lemonade Lull in Clee Park. If you are interested in hosting contact the office.





We are currently accepting nominations for First Church **DEACONS** and **ELDERS**. Forms will be available at the Sunday service and may be put in the offering plate. There is also a link to an online nomination form. You may nominate yourself or another individual. Ordination and Installation will take place in early summer for our new officers as well as those accepting an additional term. Thank you in advance for your suggestions.

Online nomination form may be found at:  
<https://forms.gle/A79ukxT1EFYjrNYt8>

There were some errors in the recently published list of current officers and staff. Please see this updated list.

## Office Bearers & Staff

### Deacons

- \*Deb Anderson**  
2nd Term, 2nd Year
- \*Erica Zetterholm-Bliss (Sr. Deacon)**  
2nd Term, 2nd Year
- Imani Janae Brewer**  
1st Term, 2nd Year
- Jean Lamere**  
1st Term, 2nd Year
- Nicole Marsh-Sivaslian**  
1st Term, 1st Year
- Harry Sanford**  
1st Term, 1st Year

### Leadership

- Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston**  
Sr. Minister
- Norma Jean Ballou**
- Erica Zetterholm-Bliss**
- James Folts**
- Jean Lamere**
- Monica Marsh**
- Ross Westhuis**

- Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston**  
Sr. Minister
- Trey Tirpak**  
Synod Fellow
- Colleen Lais**  
Office Manager

### Elders

- \*Norma Jean Ballou (Sr. Elder)**  
2nd Term, 2nd Year
- Monica Marsh**  
1st Term, 2nd Year
- Fran Car Morton**  
1st Term, 1st Year
- \*Jay Reohr**  
1st Term, 2nd Year
- Mary Weijola**  
2nd Term, 1st Year
- Chip Welge**  
2nd Term, 1st Year

### Trustees

- David Bradley**
- Shirley Bone**
- Robert Dorn**
- James Folts (President)**
- Ned Monthie (Church Master)**
- Joyce Recene (Secretary)**
- Ray Van Epps (Treasurer)**
- Ross Westhuis (Vice-President)**
- Philip Labatte (Emeritus)**

### Staff

- Keith Curry**  
Sexton
- Ray Van Epps**  
Treasurer
- Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr**  
Audio/Visual Techs

*\* indicates end of term*

*updated 5.4.22*

**GRADUATES, ARE YOU OUT THERE?** We want to recognize those who are graduating this year. Send us their name and school to add to the list. You can email the office or find the link in the next Eblast to add their name via a form. Kindergarten, 8thGrade, High School, College...**we want them all!**

## Pantry Stats

April  
2022



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

### April 2022

- 2,229 Meals were served
- 100 Households
- 33 Children
- 107 Adults
- 23 Seniors

## Wish List

Please consider donating these items to the pantry.

- Women's deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Shampoo

**Deadline for the Family:** Please submit information for the Family by May 25 for our June issue. Email items to [office@firstchurchinalbany.org](mailto:office@firstchurchinalbany.org).

## May Birthdays



- 6 Brooke Casullo
- 6 Pete Pagerey
- 8 Tom Allison
- 10 Audrey Ming
- 10 David Mortenson
- 12 Joshua Bliss
- 15 Terry Gattie
- 17 Betty Pierce
- 20 Shirley Joosten
- 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 [office@firstchurchinalbany.org](mailto:office@firstchurchinalbany.org) 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](mailto:fciaofficemanager@gmail.com). We will put them in a future edition of the Family.*

- Two recent victims of gun violence in Albany
- Family of Annie Holt, daughter of Mamie Holt
- Beverly, a friend of Clarice Milliken
- Family and friends of Shirley Nash
- Steve Hoffman
- Jean Lamere
- Marian, Colleen Lais' mother
- Harold Bushnell
- Cheri Jones
- Frank Jeffries (son of Norma McClement)
- Rev. Susan Vincent Cox for the passing of her mother Barbara
- Norma McClement
- Becky Gardner
- Norma and Leo, neighbors of Audrey Ming
- Ralph McNeil, brother of Norma Jean Ballou
- Joe Vasta, friend of the Persons family
- Family of Nathaniel Marable
- Mary Ann Selmer
- For the family of Danielle as they mourn her passing, for her children (Melvin, Traekwon, Antonio, Julius, Brandon, and Christopher)
- For Katherine's grandmother Carol LaBatte
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Jane, sister of Donna Schultz
- Elaine and Jim Jenks, Rose Hunsberger's parents
- Peter, Karen Van Epps' brother
- Jeff Curry
- Samuel, Barb Andrew's son
- Brian, the Andrew's son-in-law
- Haleigh Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Neil Keen
- Fran Carr Morton
- Harriet Stockhoff
- Kathy Stallmer (Monthie family)
- Cheryl Gowie
- Ada Harris
- Gwen, friend of Becky Gardner
- Charles Welge
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Staff and leaders of the First Church in Albany
- Prayers for the people and leaders of Ukraine. For the countries accepting those fleeing the violence. For thoughtful and productive resolution
- immediately.



FOUNDED IN 1842  
"OLDEST PULPIT IN AMERICA"

## First Church in Albany

110 North Pearl St., Albany NY 12207

518-463-4449

[www.firstchurchinalbany.org](http://www.firstchurchinalbany.org)