

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

(Reformed Church in America)

110 North Pearl Street, Albany, NY 12207 ~ (518) 463-4449

Email: info@firstchurchinalbany.org ~ Website: www.firstchurchinalbany.org ~ Sunday Worship: 10:30 am

Founded in 1642; Continuing in Ministry Today

In response to God's unconditional love for all people made known to us in Jesus Christ, we are called to be a welcoming and affirming community. The First Church in Albany includes young and old, families, couples and singles, rich and poor, persons of various races, ethnicities, backgrounds, sexual orientation and gender identities, differing physical and mental abilities, believers and seekers. We welcome into the full life of the church all those whom God sends us. Centered in Christ, we commit ourselves to breaking down dividing walls and building a community where all are loved.

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost November 17, 2019

Prelude

Prelude, Fugue and Chaconne

Dieterich Buxtehude

Announcements

Call to Worship

O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

**The LORD has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

(Psalm 98:1-4)

*Hymn 482

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we confess that like sheep we often stray from you and your values. Too often we fail to sing new songs and instead repeat old events like broken records. Too often we miss all the new blessing that you create. Teach us wisdom in our secret hearts. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

The prayer may continue in silence.

Assurance of Pardon

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son. Whosoever believes in Jesus is promised to not perish but have everlasting life. Take heart, God redeems the lost coin, rescues the lost sheep and God will restore health to you.

*The Peace

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

*Response (Tune: O WALY, WALY)

**O God, we all have gone astray,
And wandered from your holy way.
The wilds of sin our feet have trod,
Far from the paths of you, our God,**

**Oh, loving shepherd of your sheep!
Our wand'rings heal, our footsteps keep.
We seek your shelt'ring fold again,
Nor shall we seek you, Lord, in vain,**

A Word with Children

Anthem *Let the Heaven Light Shine on Me* Traditional Spiritual, arr. Moses Hogan

Let the heaven light shine on me, for low is the way to the upper bright world. Let the heaven light shine on me, Let it shine on me. Let the light from heaven shine on me.

THE WORD OF GOD

The Prayer for Illumination

Lord, you stand at the door and knock. Help us to hear your voice and open the door so that you may come in and dwell with us. Amen (Rev.3:20)

The Gospel Lesson: Luke 21:5-19

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon *The Only Way Out is Through*

The Prayer for Blessing on the Word

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

*Hymn *Be Still My Soul (see insert)* FINLANDIA

Offering

Offertory *Peace in the Valley* Thomas A. Dorsey arr. Larry Shackley

*Well I'm tired and so weary, but I must go along Till the Lord comes and calls me
calls me away. Well the morning is bright and the lamb is the light And the night
night is as fair as the day. Oh, there will be peace in the valley for me, There will
be peace in the valley for me, oh Lord, I pray. No more sadness, no more sadness,
no troubles there'll be, There will be peace in the valley for me.*

*Well, the bear will be gentle and the wolf will be tame And the lion shall lay down
down by the lamb, oh yes. And the beast from the wild will be led by little child I'll
be changed changed from this creature that I am. Oh, there will be peace in the
valley Text: Thomas Dorsey*

*Doxology (Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, no. 455)
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise, praise Creator, praise the Son,
Praise Holy Spirit, Three in One,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

The Joys and Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Hymn 354 *Guide My Feet* GUIDE MY FEET

*Charge and Blessing

Service of Ordination Gayle Wlodkowski

Benediction Response *Go Forth For God!* Kenneth Drake

Postlude *Trumpet Voluntary* Henry Purcell

AΩ

*Those who are able, please stand

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS: Liturgist: Monica Marsh; Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston; Minister of Music: Mary Bon; Soloists: The choir of First Church; trumpeter, Doug Persons.

We welcome all who gather to worship God this morning, especially visitors and friends from near and far. Please sign our guest book or complete a visitor's card (found in the pew rack) and place it in the offering plate. Please join us for refreshments and conversation after worship.

Hearing assist devices are available for your use. Please ask an usher.

Children 4 and under are welcome in the Nursery following “A Word with Children.”

First Church is an accessible building:

- We have an elevator so you can reach every floor.



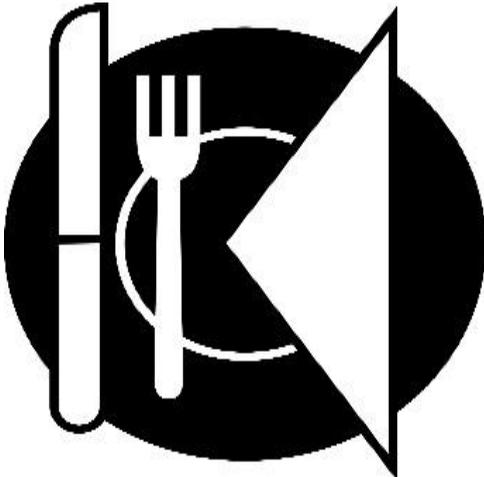
An Automated External Defibrillator “**AED**” is located in the lobby attached to the wall outside of the **workroom**.

The flowers this morning are given in loving memory of Frankie Reid by the Rev. LeRoy and Judith Suess.

Copies of our newsletter “**The Family**” and information about First Church are available at the Hospitality table in the lobby.

Pocket Prayer Shawls are available at today’s Worship. Please ask one of our greeters and they can provide a basket of pocket prayer shawls to choose from. Pocket Prayer Shawls are made and filled with prayers and can be given to someone in need of comfort, healing, or a reminder of the closeness of God.

Sign-up sheets are out for the Overflow Shelter Dinners. Can you help?



Our first dinners are November 22th (Italian) and December 6th (Chili).

You can sign up to bring a food on either date at the hospitality table.

On November 22 we need desserts. The Rev. LeRoy and Judith Utley Suess have volunteered to deliver. Please **bring your food by Friday morning** November 22th.

On December 6th the menu is Chili with fixings: chili, cheese, sour cream, salsa, tacos, breads and butter, desserts. Ian Leet will be delivering.

On Sunday November 24th we will celebrate Thanksgiving Sunday. As part of your offering you are invited to bring fresh produce and gifts of the garden to complete our cornucopia display as well as canned goods, cake mixes and other gifts for the ministry of the First Church Food Pantry. Last year we distributed Thanksgiving baskets to approximately 40 families. This year we anticipate it may be close to twice that number. We will be packing baskets after church on Sunday and the baskets will be distributed on Tuesday.

First Church Readers will meet next week, November 24th after the service to discuss *Before We Were Yours*. This book is available through the Upper Hudson Library.

Sunday Flower Date Available: November 24th is available for the dedication of sanctuary flower arrangements. The cost is \$65.00 for two vases. Please call the Church Office (518) 463-4449, if you are interested.

FOCUS CHURCHES OF ALBANY FOCUS – Winter Breakfast Club Program is open November through April, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 7-9 AM at the Westminster Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall.

There will be Pre-service music each Advent Sunday at 10:15 am in the sanctuary. Come early to meditate, pray, and listen to some beautiful music as we journey through Advent.

Poinsettias: If you would like to order a poinsettia as a memorial to be shared with a homebound member or friend, or to take after Christmas to decorate your home, orders need to be placed by **Monday, December 3, 2018**. Please send a note or call the Church office (518) 463-4449 to order the flowers, to designate your memorial, and to indicate if you would like to share or take the plant. A minimum donation of \$10.00 per plant is required.



Hanging of the Greens (indoor & outdoor) will occur on **December 7th at 9:30 am**. Breakfast will be served 8:30 am – 9:30 am. Sign up sheet is on the display table in the lobby.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Sunday	11/17	Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost	
	10:30 am	Worship Service - Sanctuary The Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston, preaching Children & Worship (during worship)	
	11:45 am	Coffee & Conversation	
	12:00 pm	Joint Boards - Parlor	
Monday	11/18	9:00 am – 11:30 am – Food Pantry Open	
	10:00 am	Staff Meeting – Parlor	
	12:00 pm	Adult Bible Study	
	5:00 pm	Deacon’s Meeting – Tour of Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless Shelter	
Wednesday	11/20	9:00 am – 11:30 am – Food Pantry Open	
	12:00 pm	AA Meeting	
	12:00 pm	Centering Prayer - Sanctuary	
Thursday	11/21	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday	11/22	6:00 pm	Emergency Overflow Shelter Meal
Sunday	11/24	Christ the King Sunday – Thanksgiving Sunday	
	10:30 am	Worship Service - Sanctuary The Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston, preaching Children & Worship (during worship)	
	11:45 am	Coffee & Conversation Thanksgiving Food Basket Assembly	
	12:00 pm	First Church Readers – Powell Room	

Valerie Williams, parish administrator, will be out of the office Friday, November 15th and Monday, November 18th. Rose Hunsberger will be providing office coverage.