

The First Church **FAMILY**

*The First Church in Albany · Founded in 1642
Reformed Church in America*

November 2015

WORSHIP:

- 1 **Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost All Saints** (Communion)
Children & Worship (During Worship)
10:30 AM- Sanctuary Service Rev. John Paarlberg preaching
Post-service: "The Way"

- 8 **Building Celebration and Re-dedication Sunday**
10:30 AM- Sanctuary Service Rev. John Paarlberg preaching
Children & Worship (During Worship)
Post Service: Reception

- 15 **Consecration Sunday**
10:30 AM- Sanctuary Service Kent Busman preaching
Children & Worship (During Worship)
Post Service: Luncheon in Zimmerman Hall

- 22 **Thanksgiving Sunday**
10:30 AM- Sanctuary Service Rev. John Paarlberg preaching
Children & Worship (During Worship)
Post Service: Thanksgiving Basket Packing

- 29 **First Sunday of Advent**
Children & Worship (During Worship)
10:30 AM- Sanctuary Service The Rev. Dr. Allan Janssen preaching
Post-service: "The Way"

Our Sunday morning service may be found anytime at www.firstchurchinalbany.org.

FAMILY is published eleven times a year by First Church in Albany, 110 North Pearl Street, Albany, NY 12207

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

During the month of November we will mark several important events in the life of our congregation.

Sunday, November 1, is All Saints, a day in which we remember and give thanks for the saints who have gone before us. We'll look both to the past and to the future, remembering with thanksgiving and rejoicing in hope. It's a time to remember the particular gifts and unique witness of some of the people who have touched our lives and the life of our congregation. We miss them, and there is sorrow in that. But we also affirm those who have died in Christ are not lost to Christ and they are not lost to us. We grieve at the passing of dear friends and family members, but our grief is intermingled with and transformed by hope: "When the shadow of death fell upon them, we sorrowed, but now we rejoice that they rest in the Lord."

The following Sunday we will gather to celebrate the completion of the church building renovations. As I write this the work is nearly finished. The towers are painted, the new copper roofing is all but complete, and the scaffolding will soon be down. It's been a major project made possible by your generous gifts and the dedication of several people in this congregation who have been overseeing and guiding the entire process. During the worship service we will give thanks for its completion and re-dedicate the sanctuary and ourselves to the glory of God. We hope that several of the contractors, architects and trades people will also be present in worship and we will have opportunity to thank them during a special reception after the service.

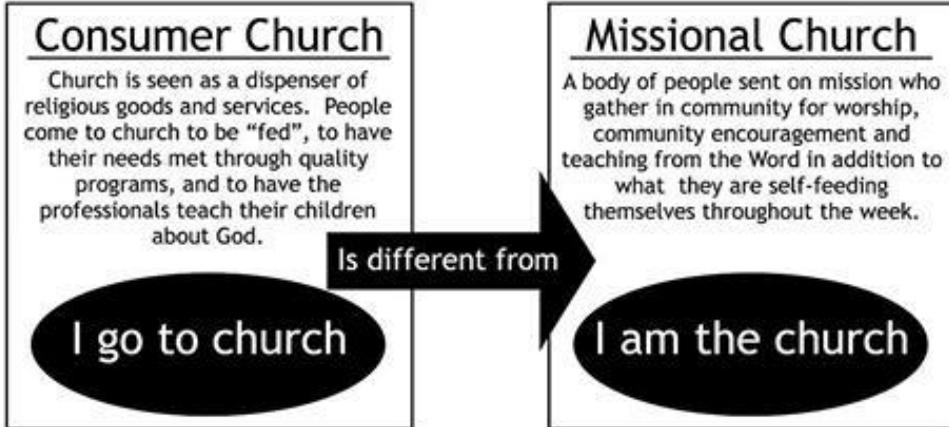
November 15 is Consecration Sunday. On that Sunday each of us will be invited to make a financial commitment to the work and witness of First Church in the coming year. But more than that, our Consecration Sunday worship is a time for us to celebrate and give thanks for God's gracious generosity and steadfast love toward us. The Rev. Kent Busman, Director of Camp Fowler, will be the guest preacher, the Nat Phipps Jazz Trio will offer their musical gifts, and after worship we will gather down stairs in Zimmerman Hall for a catered luncheon. If you have not yet made your reservations for the luncheon, please call or email the church office today.

Each week God's people gather to celebrate God's continuing grace. God has blessed First Church with a rich heritage, a beautiful sanctuary, and people who care for each other and are dedicated to serving Jesus Christ. We have much to be grateful for and much to celebrate.

Sincerely,

John D. Paarlberg

Something to Think About...



At Home with the WORD

Daily Bible Readings from the Common Lectionary www.rca.org/athome
November 1st – November 29th

1. Sunday All Saints' Day
2. Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17
3. Psalm 127
4. 1 Kings 17:8-16
5. Psalm 146
6. Hebrews 9:24-28
7. Mark 12:38-44
8. Sunday Twenty-Fourth
Sunday after Pentecost
9. 1 Samuel 1:4-20
10. Daniel 12:1-3
11. 1 Samuel 2:1-10
12. Psalm 16
13. Hebrews 10:11-25
14. Mark 13:1-8
15. Sunday Twenty-Fifth
Sunday after Pentecost
16. 2 Samuel 23:1-7
17. Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
18. Psalm 132:1-12
19. Psalm 93
20. Revelation 1:4-8
21. John 18:33-37
22. Sunday Christ the King
23. Jeremiah 33:14-16
24. Psalm 25:1-5
25. Psalm 25:6-10
26. Matthew 6:25-33
27. 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
28. Luke 21:25-36
29. Sunday First Sunday of
Advent

Compassionate Communications Workshop



Non-Violent Communication: The Basics

- How do I live the values of love, understanding, peace or justice in my community, in my family, in my workplace, in my world?
- How do I put into practice loving my neighbor as myself?
- How can I find ways through conflict that are caring and connecting and feel authentic to who I am?

Mondays: November 9, 16, 23
6:00—8:30 pm

Facilitator: Rev. Susan Vincent Cox
This event is for all FOCUS Churches

Sign up : www.firstchurchinalbany.org or call Denise : 463-4449

First Church in Albany, Parlor
110 North Pearl Street (parking lot available)



**A Festival Service
of Celebration and Rededication
with brass quartet and the return of our
magnificent Austin Organ**

Sunday November 8th

Celebrating the completion of the restoration
of the towers and clocks and the
re-roofing of the sanctuary
and parish house.

After the service, there will be
a special time of presentations,
conversation, and refreshments
in the parish house in Zimmerman Hall.

Consecration Sunday November 15th

Guest preacher: The Rev. Kent Busman
Guest musicians: The Nat Phipps Jazz Trio

A buffet luncheon will be served immediately following the 10:30 worship service.
Come and enjoy delicious food along with fellowship.
If you have not signed up yet, please call the church office or fill out the form online:
www.firstchurchinalbany.org



Come Sing in the Choir!

The choir is rehearsing Christmas music now and this is a great time to join us either for a short term commitment or for a longer stay. You don't have to read music, or have a beautiful voice - if you like to sing in the shower or around the house, you'll fit right in. Just join us any Thursday night at 7:00 pm in the choir room or talk to Mary Bon or any choir member for more information.

Advent Pre-Service Music

Starts Sunday, November 29 at 10:15 am

This year take some time during Advent to prepare again for the coming of Christ. Join us each Sunday in Advent at 10:15 AM for a special musical offering. Sit in our beautiful sanctuary; meditate; pray; or just refresh yourself with the inspiring music of the Advent season.

Weathervanes

Preparing for Thanksgiving



Join the Weathervanes for fellowship, lunch, and program on Wednesday, November 18th at 12:30 p.m. in Zimmerman Hall. Bring a sandwich. Coffee, tea, and dessert will be served. After lunch, with Thanksgiving approaching, our Chaplain John Bowen, will focus the program on being thankful.

Please telephone Audrey Ming (456-5485) to let her know that you plan to attend.

First Church Readers meets November 29th

Like to read? First Church Readers are people who love to read. We get together once a month in the post-service hour to discuss a book we have read in the past month.

November's book is *Campus Capers on the Hudson: College Fun Recollections of an Emeritus Professor* by our own William L. (Bill) Staats. Pick up a book from Bill Staats today and join on November 29th.

Future books include:

December NO BOOK GROUP

January - *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr,

February - *To the Light House* by Virginia Woolf

Future books we are considering include:

The Good Earth by Pearl S. Buck

Do you have an idea for a book for the reader's group? Want more information? Contact Mary Bon at maryebon@verizon.net or 463-4449.

Growing Green - Caring for Creation



- Every ton of recycled office paper saves 380 gallons of oil.
- Energy saved from one recycled aluminum can will operate a TV set for three hours, and is the equivalent to half a can of gasoline.
- If just 25% of American families used 10 fewer plastic bags a month, it would save over 2.5 billion bags a year.

Americans produce enough Styrofoam cups every year to circle the earth 436 times. These cups are completely non-biodegradable, deplete the Earth's ozone layer, waste enormous amounts of landfill, and are deadly to marine life. Ceramic mugs cost a few dollars.

Sources: <http://www.sustainablelafayette.org/>

Do you have ideas on what we can do to “grow greener” at First Church? How we can become better stewards of God’s creation in our homes, our church and our community? Send your ideas to: Caring For Creation, First Church in Albany, 110 N. Pearl St. Albany 12207. We will include your suggestions in the “growing green” section of the Family

It's Overflow Shelter Dinner time again- Can you help?

The Emergency Overflow Shelter at First Lutheran Church in Albany, sponsored by the Capital Area Council of Churches, is a “shelter of last resort” when other shelters are full or for those not be eligible for other shelters because of addictions or mental health issues. It is open during the winter months and turns nobody away. Since 2008 First Church has been providing two meals a month for the Shelter.

Our first dinners of the season are December 4th (Italian dishes) and December 18th (Chili). We need your help.

CAN YOU:

- Contribute a main dish, side dish or dessert for 6-8 people?
- Help deliver?

WATCH FOR SIGN-UP SHEETS AT THE HOSPITALITY TABLE.

Bring your dishes to church any day from 8:30-2:00 pm or Thursday evening from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. (Call ahead to make sure someone is at church to take your delivery.) We'll reheat dishes if necessary and deliver them to the shelter. Questions? Call or email Mary Bon (463-4449 or maryebon@verizon.net). Please use non-returnable dishes. Thanks!

Another Way to Help the Overflow Shelter

Ten Thousand Villages is once again hosting a shopping day for the Emergency Overflow Shelter. Plan to do your holiday shopping on November 15th from Noon to 5:00 pm at their shop in Stuyvesant Plaza. A portion of the sales will go directly to the Shelter.

The Capital Area Council of Churches is grateful for this opportunity to help the shelter and help you get a head start on your shopping day you have been waiting for.

Rev. Cameron Monthly Brunch

Rev. Bill Cameron began gathering a group for lunch on the first Thursday of the month. The group continues to meet each month at the Gateway Diner, 899 Central Ave. in Albany. Anyone can join us starting at 12:15 and stay until you wish to leave. We all pay for our own. Contact Donna E. Schultz at deschultz07@aol.com or [518-429-1255](tel:518-429-1255). Thank you.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Emily Otto who will be ordained in the United Church of Christ and installed at Presbyterian-New England Congregational Church in Saratoga Springs as their Minister of Spiritual Formation. The service of ordination and installation will be on November 21st at 4pm at the church in Saratoga Springs.

Parking Lot: Important Information

ANYONE PARKING IN FIRST CHURCH PARKING LOTS WITHOUT A DISPLAYED PERMIT MAY BE TOWED.

Maiden Lane no longer has an attendant full time. A towing company polices the Sheridan Avenue lot, and if there is no ticket or permit visible in the visor or dashboard you may be towed. There is a ticket booth in the lot right next to the attendant house for purchasing tickets. The charge will be \$140.00 per vehicle or higher if you are towed. Parking permits are ONLY available through Denise, phone: 463-4449. When using the Orange Street parking lot, you need to have and display a permit. In addition, if you have an event at church you MUST contact Denise.
David Bradley Chair, Board of Trustees Parking Committee



Children and Worship

Every Sunday

During Worship (after the children's moment)

We have had a wonderful start to our new church year. It is joyful to see so many children gathering up front for our Children's Moment then going up together to our 2 Children and Worship Centers. In our new center, led this month by

Deb Anderson and Imani Brewer, the children 9-12 have been enjoying the story of Creation told over 4 weeks. Each week the children read or hear the story differently: one week with props, another by echo pantomimes, another week they tell the story. Every week there is time for wondering questions, creative expression, prayer and singing. Stop up sometime after worship and see what the children have made displayed on the wall. We have had up to 5 children weekly enjoying the rich spirit filled stories of our bible.

Rev. Sue Vincent Cox

Helping Our Neighbors Celebrate Thanksgiving

This thanksgiving season we will be providing the food for a thanksgiving meal for many of the families served by our food pantry. On Sunday, November 22, many of us will stay for a few minutes after worship to help pack the food baskets that will be distributed to families in our area. Also on that Sunday you are invited to come to worship with gifts of food items. This year instead of providing a thanksgiving turkey to each family, we are providing gift cards enabling them to purchase their own. On Tuesday, November 24 we will be distributing the Thanksgiving Baskets from 9:00 to 11:30 am.

Donations of other food items are needed including:

- pie filling
- pie crust
- stuffing
- canned fruit
- cranberry sauce
- yams
- sweet potatoes gravy
- carrots
- celery
- onions
- potatoes
- apples
- fresh items

Christmas poinsettia memorials – Please send a note or call the church office (463.4449) by Monday, December 7th at 9:00am to place your order for Christmas Poinsettia memorials. A minimum donation of \$10 per plant is requested. Make your check payable to First Church in Albany (marked: Poinsettias). After Christmas, the plants are shared with our homebound members and friends.



The deadline for the December issue of *FAMILY* is November 13.



Memorials

In celebration of the life of **Rev. William Cameron, Jr.** a gift has been received from Robert Snyder and Mary Bennett Snyder for the **Drive-In Ministry**.

In celebration of the life of **Fred J. Haviland** a gift has been received from Dr. Carl and Caroline With for the **Youth Ministry**.

In celebration of the life of **Etheleen Williams** a gift has been received from Tom Allison for the **Jazz Ensemble to play at Commitment Sunday**.

In celebration of the life of **Ruth Reiners** a gift has been received from Harriet Sinclair and Rosemary and Thomas Waldbillig for the **Lynn T. Joosten Scholarship Fund**.

Tech Volunteer Needed

We have suspended CD recordings of our worship services while we look for a volunteer to help continue this important ministry. These recordings have allowed our shut-ins to hear our services and also enabled posting of our services on our website. If you can help with this ministry, please contact Ian Leet, Worship Commission Chair, or the Church Office at 463-4449.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUIRED