

The First Church in Albany

living
water

Sunday, January 12, 2025, 10am



The First Church in Albany (Reformed Church in America)

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 we are loved.

Prelude Reflection *a haiku for today's service*

Heavens open wide,
God redeems, says, "You are mine."
Fear not, love sustains.

Prelude "Brethren We Have Met to Worship" J. Carter
"Amazing Grace"

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine." - Isaiah 43:1b

Call to Worship *Based on Psalm 42*

Votum: Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth. **Amen.**

Leader: As a deer longs for flowing streams, so our souls long for you, O God.

People: We come, thirsty for your living waters, seeking renewal and grace.

Leader: In the roar of the waterfall of your Being, deep calls out to deep; the waves and breakers of your glory sweep over us, day by day.

People: In the waters of baptism, you claim us as your own, cleansing and renewing our lives, calling us to an identity and life defined by you.

Leader: Just as we remember how to swim when we dive into the ocean,

People: When we recall your promises, we can fully dive into life.

Leader: Beloved children of God: Hope in God, for our help is God.

People: Let us worship the One who calls us by name and sustains us, day by day!

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy and new beginnings, we remember the baptism of Jesus: how the heavens opened, your Spirit descended, and your voice declared him your “Beloved Son.” Today, we confess that we forget we are your beloved children, too. We often live as though your Spirit does not guide us. We choose fear over faith, comfort over calling, and selfishness over selflessness. In so doing, we break the vows of our own baptism: to reject sin, resist evil, and follow Christ. By your Spirit, wash us anew in your grace. Cleanse us from all that separates us from you and others. Renew us so that we may live as your faithful people. Amen.

Pause for silent confession

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law

Hear the good news from Titus 3:4-8: “When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.”

This truly is a trustworthy saying—one to live by, one we can come to know Christ’s peace by. May it be so.

***Passing the Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us rise and greet one another with the peace of Christ.

Prayer for Illumination

God, you formed and redeemed us. As we listen to your Word, fill us with your Spirit, renew our faith, and help us walk boldly as your beloved children. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 43:1-7 (CEB)

But now, says the Lord—the one who created you, Jacob, the one who formed you, Israel:

Don't fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when through the rivers, they won't sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you won't be scorched and flame won't burn you. I am the Lord your God, the holy one of Israel, your savior. I have given Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in your place. Because you are precious in my eyes, you are honored, and I love you. I give people in your place, and nations in exchange for your life. Don't fear, I am with you.

From the east I'll bring your children; from the west I'll gather you. I'll say to the north, "Give them back!" and to the south, "Don't detain them." Bring my sons from far away, and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name and whom I created for my glory, whom I have formed and made.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Text

Matthew 3:13-17 (CEB)

At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River so that John would baptize him. John tried to stop him and said, "I need to be baptized by you, yet you come to me?"

Jesus answered, "Allow me to be baptized now. This is necessary to fulfill all righteousness."

So John agreed to baptize Jesus. When Jesus was baptized, he immediately came up out of the water. Heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and resting on him. A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son whom I dearly love; I find happiness in him."

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

"Heaven was opened to him"

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

*Hymn of Response

"Amazing Grace" vs. 1-4

Pew Hymnal p. 280

***Sending Hymn**

“Be Not Afraid”

See p. 10

Charge & Blessing

May the Lord bless you and keep you;
May the Lord’s face shine upon you and be gracious to you;
May the Lord smile toward you, and give you peace.

Postlude

Note:

- For the sermon series "The Ministry of Jesus," Second Hour lessons and discussions, from now until Holy Week, will focus on the sermon text preached that Sunday. The default time and location for these will be 11:30 in Zimmerman Hall.
- Join us in Zimmerman Hall after the service for a time of fellowship and refreshments. Have a blessed week!

Preacher: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Liturgist: Ned Monthie

Organist: Iteke Prins

Vocalist and/or Specialist: Susan Fedak

Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr

CCLI License #463379;

One License #A-700689



**Lectio
Divina**

In Latin, these words mean
“holy” or “spiritual reading”
It is a form of intentional
reading of bible verses once
practiced solely by monks.
At First, we would like to
invite you to begin your new
year praying with us for all the
things that lie before us.

Sunday, January 5 through March 2
9:15am - 9:45am
in the Stephen James Chapel
at
The First Church in Albany
110 North Pearl St. Albany NY 12207

PRAYERS, CONCERNS & JOYS

- Cheryl Gowie, recovering from a recent hospitalization
- For Joselyn Boone, daughter of staff member Jerman Boone, who is hospitalized
- For Ian Leet, recovering from some health concerns
- For John Haviland, recovering from some health concerns
- Teresa Wheeler and her family for the death of her father last week. Teresa recently lost her grandmother as well
- For David Allen with ongoing health concerns
- For Kathleen Claydon, recovering from a broken leg after a fall
- For the first responders who worked valiantly to save them
- For Baby Stella, home with her family, as she grows stronger. For Kaitlyn Bliss and Victor, Stella's parents as they settle in with their new baby.
- For the Johnson family, mother of three who passed. Prayers for children and grandchildren.
- Stephen Giguere, Virginia's husband, diagnosed with cancer
- Shawn Giguere, Virginia's son, with a health diagnosis
- Donna Jones
- Michelle Williams
- Mia Westman
- Becky Gardner
- Carol LaBatte
- For Jennifer Recene Gallagher
- Ken Lucas, friend of Philip Labatte
- Harold Bushnel
- Alex Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Cheryl Gowie
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Ministers, staff, and leaders of First Church as they move forward into our everchanging world.
- For the people of California, dealing with the destruction of devastating wildfires.
- Prayers for Ukraine, Israel and Palestine and all areas of conflict across the globe. May we all remember to lead with love.
- For an end to gun violence here in Albany, in the U.S., and around the world.
- For government officials at all levels as we move into the new year.



If you have a concern or joy you would like to share with our church family, email office@firstchurchinalbany.org or call the office at 518-463-4449

Tuesday Afternoon Zoom Bible Study 1:00PM - 2:00PM

The Tuesday noon Bible study group meets each week. All are invited and will be most welcome. We will be following the common lectionary passages for the upcoming Sunday with Pastor Mashona. Links can be found on the website.

We are doing this on a week by week basis so anyone can drop into the Bible study at any time no need for a long-term commitment!



Day by Day

E^b $Fm7/A^b$

1 Day by day and with each pass - ing mo - ment, strength I
 2 Ev - ery day the Lord him - self is near me, with a
 3 Help me then in ev - ery trib - u - la - tion so to

B^b B^b7 E^b

find to meet my tri - als here; trust - ing in my Fa - ther's wise be -
 spe - cial mer - cy for each hour; all my cares he glad - ly bears and
 trust your prom - is - es, O Lord, that I lose not faith's sweet con - so -

$Fm7/A^b$ B^b B^b7 E^b

stow - ment, I've no cause for wor - ry or for fear. He whose
 cheers me, he whose name is Coun - sel - or and Power. The pro -
 la - tion of - fered me with - in your ho - ly Word. Help me,

A^b B^b7

heart is kind be - yond all mea - sure gives un - to each
 tec - tion of his child and trea - sure is a charge that
 Lord, when toil and trou - ble meet - ing, e'er to take, as

E^b

day what he deems best— lov - ing - ly, its part of pain and
 on him - self he laid: "As your days, your strength shall be in
 from a fa - ther's hand, one by one, the days, the mo - ments

Fm7 B^b B^b7 E^b

plea - sure, min - gling toil with peace and rest.
 mea - sure"— this the pledge to me he made.
 fleet - ing, till I reach the prom - ised land.

Words: Carolina Sandell Berg (1865); tr. Andrew L. Skoog, 1931, alt. P.D.
 Music (BLOTT EN DAG 10.9.10.9 D): Oscar Ahnfelt, 1872, P.D.

Bible Study

JOIN US ON ZOOM MEETING
 www.firstchurchinalbany.org for link
 WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30PM

Schedule:

- January 8: Philippians 1:1-11
- January 15: Philippians 1:12-26
- January 22: Philippians 1:27-2:11
- January 29: Philippians 2:12-18
- February 5: Philippians 2:19-30
- February 12: Philippians 3:1-11
- February 19: Philippians 3:12-21
- February 26: Philippians 4:1-23

Gathering Hymn Neither Death Nor Life ELW #622

Refrain - All

Nei-ther death, nor life, nor an-gels, nor rul-ers, nor
trials in the pres-ent, nor an - y trial to come, nei - ther height, nor
depth, nor all of cre - a - tion can ev - er sep - a - rate us
from the love of God poured out in Christ Je - sus, our Lord.

Leader or All

1 Dwell in the one who raised Christ from the dead; though your
bod-y shall die, in Christ you shall rise through the
Spir - it who brings you to life.

5 Who can sep - a - rate us from the love of Christ? Will
hard-ship or dis - tress, per-se - cu - tion or fam-ine, or
na - ked - ness or per - il or sword?

Be Not Afraid

Bob Dufford SJ



1. You shall cross the bar-ren
2. If you pass through rag-ing
3. _____ Bles - sed are the



des - ert _____ but you shall not die of thirst. You shall
wa - ters _____ in the sea you shall not drown. If you
poor, _____ for the king-dom shall be theirs.



wan - der far in safe - ty _____ though you do not know the
walk a - mid the burn-ing flames , _____ you shall not be
Blest are you that weep and mourn. For _____ one day you shall



way. you shall speak your words in for - eign lands and
harmed. If you stand be - fore the pow'r of hell and
laugh. And if wick - ed men in - sult and hate you



all will un - der - stand., You shall see the face of God and
death is at your side, know that I am with you through it
all be - cause of me. Bles - sed, _____ bles - sed are



live. _____ Be not _____ a-fraid I go be-fore you al-ways.
all. _____
you! _____



Come fol-low me _____ and I will give you rest. _____

2025 January

Key:

-  Indoor Worship 10am
-  Coffee Hour
-  Communion Sunday
-  Coffee Hour
-  Pantry 9am
-  Centering Prayer 12pm
-  AA 12pm
-  Indoor Worship 10am
-  Coffee Hour
-  Choir
-  Zoom Study 1pm
-  Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 New Year's Day Office Closed  Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am	2  Pantry 9am	3	4
5  Indoor Worship 10am  Coffee Hour  Communion Sunday	6  Open House & Press Day	7  Pantry 9am  Prayer Shawl Group BIBLE Zoom Study 1pm 6:30pm Consistory	8  Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am  Centering Prayer 12pm  4pm Crop Walk Mtg AA 12pm Zoom Bible Study 7:30pm	9  Pantry 9am	10	11
12  Indoor Worship 10am  Coffee Hour  2nd HOUR  First KIDS	13	14  Pantry 9am  BIBLE Zoom Study 1pm	15  Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am  AA 12pm  Centering Prayer 12pm  Weathervanes 12:30 Zoom Bible Study 7:30pm CACC MLK Jr. at Beth Emeth 7pm	16  Pantry 9am	17	18
19  Indoor Worship 10am  Coffee Hour  2nd HOUR  First KIDS  First KIDS Soup & Sand. Mtg 11:15 am Trustee Mtg.	20 MLK Jr. Day Office Closed  Inauguration	21  Pantry 9am  BIBLE Zoom Study 1pm	22  Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am  Centering Prayer 12pm  AA 12pm Zoom Bible Study 7:30pm	23  Pantry 9am	24	25
26  Indoor Worship 10am  Coffee Hour  2nd HOUR  First KIDS Congr. Mtg. 11:15 am	27	28  Pantry 9am FOCUS Board Mtg. 6:30pm	29  Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am  Centering Prayer 12pm  AA 12pm Zoom Bible Study 7:30pm	30  Pantry 9am	31	 I have a DREAM

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

JANUARY 2025

TUE	PANTRY	9AM
14	ZOOM BIBLE STUDY	1PM
WED	SOUP & SANDWICHES	11:30AM
15	CENTERING PRAYER	NOON
	AA MEETING	NOON
	WEATHERVANES	12:30PM
	ZOOM BIBLE STUDY	7:30PM
THU	PANTRY	9AM
16		
FRI	PANTRY END OF YEAR	11AM
17	CELEBRATION	
SUN	LECTIO-DIVINA PRAYER	9:15AM
19	IN THE CHAPEL	
	WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY	10AM
	2ND HOUR STUDY	11:15AM
	TRUSTEES MEETING	11:15AM

CONGREGATIONAL MTG. & POTLUCK ON JANUARY 26

BEGINNINGS AT 9AM IS ON HIATUS THROUGH MARCH

FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG



First Church in Albany

110 North Pearl St., Albany NY 12207

518-463-4449

www.firstchurchinalbany.org