

The First Church in Albany

Welcomes you

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany, January 29, 2023,
10am Worship Service

WHAT DOES THE LORD
REQUIRE OF YOU

but to do

JUSTICE

and to love

Kindness

and to

Walk Humbly
with your God?

Micah 6:1-8

The First Church in Albany (Reformed Church in America)

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.

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany, January 29, 2023

Prelude Reflection

“Winter, cold and austere, can be so isolating, but since the trees have lost all their leaves, it’s much easier to see through the forest. Let the silence of snow and the stark clarity of nature’s slumber bless you.”

[illegible]

Tolling of Bell: *bell tolled by children of First Church*

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing *Isaiah 60:1*

Welcome in the name of the Triune God whose Word, in this season of Epiphany, blesses us by saying, “Arise! Shine! Your light has come, for the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.” **Amen.**

Call to Worship *Adapted from the United Methodist Church based on Isaiah 60*

Leader: Arise! Shine!

People: God's light has come to reveal The Way for this New Year.

Leader: Arise! Shine!

People: God's light penetrates the darkness that covers the world.

Leader: Arise! Shine!

People: And peoples shall come to God's light,

Leader: And rulers to the brightness of God's dawn.

People: Arise! Shine!

Leader: For the Glory of the Lord has dawned upon us. Let us sing out to the Lord of Light!

People: The One who forgives our foolish ways and sets us on the path of light and love.

*Opening Hymn Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

v. 1-4

1. Dear Lord and Fa - ther of man - kind, for - give our fool - ish
 2. In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, be - side the Syr - ian
 3. O sab - bath rest by Gal - i - lee, O calm of hills a -
 4. Drop thy still dews of qui - et - ness, till all our striv - ings
 5. Breathe through the heats of our de - sire thy cool - ness and thy

ways; re - clothe us in our right - ful mind, in
 sea, the gra - cious call - ing of the Lord, let
 bove, where Je - sus knelt to share with thee the
 cease; take from our souls the strain and stress, and
 balm; let sense be dumb, let flesh re - tire; speak

pur - er lives thy ser - vice find, in deep - er rev - erence,
 us, like them, with - out a word, rise up and fol - low
 si - lence of e - ter - ni - ty, in - ter - pret - ed by
 let our or - dered lives con - fess the beau - ty of thy
 through the earth - quake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of

praise; in deep - er rev - erence praise.
 thee; rise up and fol - low thee.
 love; in - ter - pret - ed by love!
 peace; the beau - ty of thy peace.
 calm; O still, small voice of calm.

WORDS: John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872
 MUSIC: Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918).

REPTON
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Prayer of Confession: Traditional Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Time of silence

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law *Micah 6:8*

“The Lord has told you, O mortal, what is good. What does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

***Passing the Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.



Leader: Let us greet one another with a hand-sign of peace.

Touch your thumb to the tip of your ring finger, and wave to one another. This hand-sign makes Christ's gesture of blessing in a lot of iconography in the Orthodox Tradition.

Children's Message & Blessing

Prayer for Illumination

As the psalmist says, “in your light, we see light.” Send your light upon us today, so we might see the light that is you. Amen.

Scripture Reading 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Text

Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel.

"O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

"With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

*Hymn of
Response

What Does the Lord Require of You

MICAH 6:8

May be sung as a canon

① B \flat F Gm Dm E \flat

What does the Lord re - quire of you? What does the

B \flat Cm F B \flat ② B \flat F/A

Lord re - quire of you? Jus - tice,

Gm Dm E \flat B \flat /D Cm7 F

kind - ness, walk hum-bly with your

B \flat ③ F/A Gm Dm

God. To seek jus - tice and love kind-ness

E \flat B \flat /D Cm7 F B \flat D.C. B \flat Fine

and walk hum-bly with your God. God.

Profession of Faith *Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 122, concerning the Lord's Prayer*

Q. What does the first petition of the Lord's Prayer mean?

A. **"Hallowed be your name" means: "Help us to truly know you, to honor, glorify, and praise you for all your works and for all that shines forth from them: your almighty power, wisdom, kindness, justice, mercy, and truth."**

And it means, "Help us to direct all our living—what we think, say, and do—so that your name will never be blasphemed because of us but always honored and praised."

Tithes & Offerings: *If you would like to connect more with the life and mission of First Church, please fill out a Welcome Card found in your pew and place it in the offering as it goes by.*

Offertory

*"Fairest Lord Jesus"
Margaret Randall, organist*

P. Langston

***Doxology #592 in pew hymnal**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Leader: O Lord,

People: Hear our 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.**

*Sending Hymn

Be Not Afraid - Bob Dufford, SJ

1. You shall cross the bar-ren des-ert, but you shall not die of
1. thirst. You shall wan-der far in safe-ty though you do not know the
1. way. You shall speak your words in for-eign lands and all will un-der-
1. stand. You shall see the face of God and live. * to Refrain

Refrain *
Be not a-fraid. I go be-fore you al-ways. Come fol-low
me, and I will give you rest. 1, 2 to Vss 2, 3 Final 2

Verse 2
2. If you pass through rag-ing wa-ters in the sea, you shall not
2. drown. If you walk a-mid the burn-ing flames, you shall not be
2. harmed. If you stand be-fore the pow'r of hell and death is at your
2. side, know that I am with you through it all. * to Refrain

***Charge & Blessing**

Postlude

Fanfare on "McKee"
Margaret Randall, organist

C. Callahan

CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689

Preacher: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Organist: Margaret Randall

Hymn Leaders: Norma Jean Ballou & Jean Lamere

Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr

Looking for a way to serve? We are always looking for liturgists. A liturgist reads a few pieces at the beginning of the service. Please let Rev. Mashona or Rev. Trey know if you are interested or have any questions.

As you leave, please take any trash with you and deposit it in the trashcans by the doors.

Note: You are invited to coffee and refreshments downstairs in Zimmerman Hall. The Board of Trustees meeting will be held in the Parlor.


FOCUS CHURCHES OF ALBANY

COMBINED WINTER WORSHIP

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5TH, 2023
10:30 AM AT
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ALBANY
362 STATE STREET

BOTH IN-PERSON (PLEASE BRING A MASK)
AND VIA FACEBOOK LIVE

FOR MORE DETAILS:
WWW.FIRSTPRESALBANY.ORG OR
WWW.FOCUSCHURCHES.NET



Prayer Joys & Concerns

- Kokese Ballou
- Carol LaBatte
- Norma McClement
- For Jennifer Recene Gallagher
- Larry McCarthy, friend of the Andrews Family
- For a friend with health issues
- For Jason Shahid
- The family of Danielle, as they approach the year anniversary of her death
- Ruth and Josue Torres
- For Jim, Rose Hunsberger's father
- The Reohr Family
- Joe Vasta and wife Albie, friends of the Persons
- Deborah Paris, daughter of Betty Pierce
- Alexis Parry, niece of Cheryl Gowie
- Gail Santimaw, friend of Judith Utley-Suess
- John Utley, brother of Judith Utley-Suess
- Judith Utley-Suess, for strength
- Brian Zapel, friend of Dave Andrews
- Ronald Stockhoff.
- For Mia and Wim Westman
- For Barbara W., dear friend of Barb & Dave Andrews and Donna Jones
- Harold Bushnel
- Alex Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Cheryl Gowie
- Ralph McNeil, brother of Norma Jean Ballou
- Mary Ann Selmer
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Donna Schultz
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Clergy, staff and leaders of the First Church in Albany
- Prayers for this burden of gun violence and its aftermath.
- An end to the war in Ukraine

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 office@firstchurchinalbany.org.



SOUP IN Glee Park

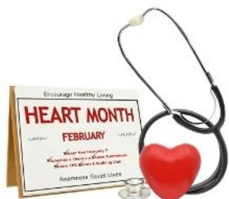
RETURNS
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

**AFTER SOME GREAT CONVERSATION,
WE HAVE CHOSEN TO RESUME THIS
MINISTRY ON THURSDAYS
BETWEEN 11:30AM & 12:30PM**

**WE WILL KEEP YOU POSTED
ABOUT SOME NEW IDEAS TO
REACH OUR COMMUNITY
COMING SOON!**

If you would like to volunteer to serve soup on
a Thursday, please contact
office@firstchurchinalbany.org

#firstchurchinmotion



The First Church in Albany

FEBRUARY 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 AA	2 A Night of Worship	3	4
5 FOCUS Service 10:30am	6 Prayer Shawl Mtg. 11am	Zoom Study noon Consistory Mtg. 6pm	8 AA	9	10	11
12	13	Zoom Study noon Leadership Mtg. 6pm	15 AA	16	17	18
19 Soup Ministry Planning Mtg.	20 Office Closed President's Day	Zoom Study noon 	22 AA Ash Wednesday	23	24	25
26	27	Zoom Study noon 28	* Combined FOCUS Worship Service, 2.5.23 at 10:30am at First Presbyterian in Albany. See website for details † Ash Wednesday Service noon in Chapel Ashes to Go 4:30pm in parking lot			

Key:



Pantry
9am



Centering
Prayer 12pm



Worship
10am



Communion
Sunday



Coffee
Hour



Soup in
the Park
11:30am



Weather
12:30pm



This Week at the First Church in Albany

- | | | | |
|-------------|------|---------|---|
| • Sunday | 1.29 | 10am | Indoor Worship at FCIA, also on Zoom |
| | | AW | Trustees Board Meeting in Parlor |
| • Monday | 1.30 | 9am | Food Pantry |
| • Tuesday | 1.31 | 12pm | Adult Scripture Study |
| • Wednesday | 2.1 | 9am | Food Pantry |
| | | 12pm | AA Meeting |
| | | 12pm | Centering Prayer |
| • Thursday | 2.2 | 11:30am | Soup in Clee Park is back! |
| | | 7pm | A Night of Worship in Chapel, preceded by Potluck in Parlor |

Upcoming Events

- | | | | |
|-------------|------|---------|--|
| • Sunday | 2.5 | 10:30am | Combined FOCUS Worship Service at First Presbyterian Albany on State St. |
| • Monday | 2.6 | 11am | Prayer Shawl Meeting |
| • Tuesday | 2.7 | 6pm | Consistory Meeting |
| • Wednesday | 2.15 | 12:30pm | Weathervanes (Rev. Trey Presents) |

*Meeting Schedules are subject to change. Watch your email for updates if you are a part of these gatherings.

AW = After Worship



First Church in Albany

110 North Pearl St.,
Albany NY 12207
518-463-4449

www.firstchurchinalbany.org