

The First Church in Albany

Welcomes

Together we can do better for our neighbors.



Sunday, November 10, 2024, 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 ([reformedworship.org](http://reformedworship.org))

The purpose of the prelude is to enter into a holy space by quieting ourselves and preparing for worship. Let us enter into that quiet space together now.

*God is in God's Holy Temple. Let all the earth keep silent before God.*

**Prelude** "American Pastorale" John S. Dixon

## Tolling of Bell

**Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing** II Corinthians 13:14

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." **Amen.**

## Call to Worship Psalm 146

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

**People: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

Leader: Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

**People: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free!**

Leader: The LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**People: The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*“This Is My Song ”*

*(see p.5)*

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Living God, before you the generations rise and pass away to whom all life is an open book, You search our hearts and we are known. Please forgive us for ignoring the purpose of the church and forgetting that our purpose is our business. You told your disciples to become fisher of people and we have become builders of buildings. Help us to build people with the power of your love and resources that we have because of your generosity.**

*Time of silence*

### **Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law, God speaks to us**

For God so loved the world, he gave his only begotten son. Therefore, whoever believes shall not perish. So, we proclaim with Christians throughout the centuries a portion of the *Apostle’s Creed*:

**I believe in God the Father,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only son,  
was crucified, dead, and was buried.  
He rose on the third day.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **\*Passing the Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us rise if able and spend a few moments greeting one another.

## **Special Music**

*"His Eye Is on the Sparrow"*

**Gabriel/DeCesare**

## **Prayer for Illumination** *Please sing, pg 322 in pew hymnal*

**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me. Mold me. Fill me. Use me. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me!**

## **Scripture Reading** 1 Kings 17:8-16, pg 283 in pew bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

## **Sermon Text**

Mark 12:38-44, pg 825 in pew bible

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ!**

## **Sermon**

*When The Church Minds Her Business*

## **A Prayer of Blessing on the Word**

**\*Hymn of Response** *"The Church's One Foundation "* (see p.6)

**Order for the Recognition of Ministries** (see p. 8 & 9)

**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**

*"Bridge Over Troubled Water"*

Paul Simon

**\*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.**

## **Sending Hymn**

*"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"*

(see p. 7)

## **\*Charge & Blessing**

## **Postlude**

*"Trumpet Grace"*

John S. Dixon

**Notes:** *Join us in Zimmerman Hall for refreshments and fellowship after the service.*

**Preacher:** Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

**Liturgist:** Rev. Trey Tirpak

**Organist:** Gloria Norton

**Vocalist and/or specialist:** Abigail Norton Levering, violin

**Audio/Visual:** Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr

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## PRAYERS, CONCERNS & JOYS

- For Rebecca Keller, Zora West, family and friends of Andy Mondore as they mourn his passing.
- For the family and friends of The Rev. Dr. Robert A. White. Rev. White was a very active minister and educator with the RCA, who also served locally.
- The Rev. Leroy Koopman, minister, author, lifelong learner via HASP, active in music and theater in Holland MI.
- The Rev. Carlton Bruce Wierks, active in the RCA in many varied roles.
- For the Johnson family, mother of three who passed. Prayers for children and grandchildren.
- For Mark, the cousin of a pantry guest, and his family
- For Baby Stella and her family, as she continues to grow stronger and they look forward to her coming home (daughter of Kaitlyn Bliss and Victor)
- For the Lloyd family for the passing of Donald
- Stephen Giguere, Virginia's husband, diagnosed with cancer
- Shawn Giguere, Virginia's son, with a health diagnosis
- David Allen, recovering from emergency surgery
- Donna Linen's health concerns, friend of the Dorn's
- Teresa Wheeler's grandmother Cindy, with health concerns
- Donna Jones
- Michelle Williams
- Mia Westman
- Becky Gardner
- Donna Schultz
- 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.
- Those dealing with natural disasters exasperated by climate change.
- 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 peaceful U.S. Federal, State and Local Elections

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

## 340 This Is My Song

1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,  
 2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,  
 3 This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's king - doms:

a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.  
 and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.  
 thy king - dom come; on earth thy will be done.

This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;  
 But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,  
 Let Christ be lift - ed up till all shall serve him,

here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;  
 and skies are ev - ery - where as blue as mine.  
 and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.

The first two stanzas of this hymn were written between the 20th century's two world wars and focus on the theme of international peace. The third stanza, by another author and added later, uses the language of the Lord's Prayer to voice a distinctly Christian perspective.

TEXT: Stanzas 1-2, Lloyd Stone; stanza 3, Georgia Harkness, alt.

MUSIC: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. *The Hymnal*, 1933, alt.

Text St. 1-2 © 1934, ren. 1962 *The Lorenz Corp.*; St. 3 © 1964 *The Lorenz Corp.*

Music Arr. © 1933, ren. 1961 *The Presbyterian Board of Christian Education (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)*

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 11.10.11.10.11.10

## The Church's One Foundation 321

1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord.  
 2 E - lect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 3 Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,  
 4 Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
 5 Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,

She is his new creation by water and the word.  
 her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
 by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
 she waits the consummation of peace forevermore:  
 and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:

From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride.  
 One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
 yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
 till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,  
 O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,

With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
 and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.  
 And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.  
 and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.  
 like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

This hymn was one of twelve written by an English curate to affirm the articles of the Apostles' Creed with biblical allusions such as 1 Corinthians 3:11 here. Though not created for this text, the tune was joined to it in 1868, and the two have been inseparable ever since.

## O Beautiful for Spacious Skies 338

1 O beau-ti-ful for spa-cious skies, for am-ber waves of grain,  
 2 O beau-ti-ful for he-roes proved in lib-er-at-ing strife,  
 3 O beau-ti-ful for pa-triot dream that sees be-yond the years

for pur-ple moun-tain maj-es-ties a-bove the fruit-ed plain!  
 who more than self their coun-try loved, and mer-cy more than life!  
 thine al-a-bas-ter cit-ies gleam, un-dimmed by hu-man tears!

A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God shed his grace on thee,  
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God mend thine ev-ery flaw;  
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! May God thy gold re-fine

and crown thy good with \*broth-er-hood from sea to shin-ing sea!  
 con-firm thy soul in self-con-trol, thy lib-er-ty in law!  
 till all suc-cess be no-ble-ness and ev-ery gain di-vine!

\*Or "servanthood"

This text (inspired by the vista from Pike's Peak and by a visit to Chicago's Columbian World Exposition) and tune (named MATERNA because it was composed for "O Mother, Dear Jerusalem") were joined in 1912. The combination proved immensely popular during World War I and afterwards.

## Order for the Recognition of Ministries:

Beloved in the Lord,  
Christ alone is the source of all Christian ministry,  
through the ages calling men and women to serve.  
By the Holy Spirit all who believe and are baptized receive a ministry  
to witness to Jesus as Savior and Lord, and  
to love and serve those with whom they live and work.  
We are ambassadors for Christ  
who reconciles and makes whole.  
We are the salt of the earth;  
we are the light of the world.  
Baptized into Christ,  
we all are called to offer ourselves in thanksgiving  
to the Lord of the Church.  
It is our privilege to recognize and support  
those who are engaged in the work of **The Capital Area Council of Churches**  
here at **The First Church in Albany**.

\*Beloved people of God,  
will you give your prayers, encouragement, and support  
to *the Capital Area Council of Churches*  
*that they may serve with joy and not with grief?*  
**We will.**

Let us pray.

God of grace and glory,  
whom saints delight to worship in heaven and on earth,  
bless the ministry of those serving as  
*that we may know the joy of your presence*  
*and may worship to the glory of your holy name.*

God of love,  
your Son washed the feet of the disciples,  
as a sign of servanthood.  
Uphold all who follow this example of humble service;  
strengthen them in their faith.  
Help us each to do faithful deeds of love and mercy.  
God of compassion,  
who sent Jesus, the Good Shepherd,  
give these servants open hearts  
that they may show your love and care,  
in faithful ministry with your people.

For all who offer themselves in your name,  
we give thanks, O God.  
Help them trust  
your constant care and guidance;  
give them joy in serving.  
Help us all to be both willing servants and  
thankful recipients of ministry,  
that your name may be glorified,  
your people live in peace,  
and your will be done,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## First Church Welcomes the Capital Area Council of Churches

Over the last several months we have been undergoing some projects to welcome a new ministry to The First Church in Albany campus. This weekend we officially welcome the Capital Area Council of Churches (CACC) and the Emergency Homeless Overflow Shelter which needed a new home. This is a great opportunity to deepen our partnership with CACC and lean into our commitment to serve our neighbors. The CACC offices will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and the Shelter will be housed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor in the gym and the fireside room. We offer a special thanks to all the leadership from First Church and CACC who have made this a reality! Here is a note from the Executive Director:



To our Dear Friends at The First Church in Albany,

First Church has a long history of supporting the Capital Area Council of Churches. In addition to contributing to CACC's Operations and staffing, as well as having parishioners serve on the board and on various committees, First Church has:

- Prepared meals for the Emergency Homeless Overflow Shelter
- Participated in the Ecumenical Witnesses of Baptism Program
- Contributed to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Scholarship
- Participated in the CROP Walk Rally and the John U Miller CROP Walk

You are now opening your doors and welcoming us to our new home. Thank you so much!

We look forward to getting to know you more and invite you to our upcoming events:

- Ecumenical Witnesses of Baptism Renewal Service - Sunday January 12th, 2 PM, St. Matthew's Roman Catholic Church in Voorheesville
- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Celebration - Wednesday January 15th, Congregation Beth Emeth, 7 pm, 100 Academy Rd, Albany, NY 12208
- Annual Assembly - Wednesday February 12th, Bethany Reformed Church, 6 PM Networking, 6:30 PM Annual Report, 7 PM Program

In Fellowship and Gratitude,  
Peter Crasto-Donnelly



*In loving memory of*

## Edward Andrew Mondore

We are saddened to announce that our brother, Andy, passed on Sunday, November 3. We lift up Andy's family and friends in their sorrow, while we rejoice that Andy is forevermore with our Lord Jesus Christ.

1956 - 2024

Calling hours will be held at Bryce Funeral Home, Inc. at 276 Pawling Ave, Troy, NY on Friday, November 15, 2024, from 4-6 pm.

Celebration of Andy's life will be held at First Church in Albany on Saturday, November 16, 2024, at 11 am followed by lunch in the fellowship hall.

The service will also be live streamed on our YouTube channel. The link will be on our website

**Food Pantry**  
FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY  
EST. 1642

THE PANTRY COULD USE  
YOUR HELP THIS

# Thanksgiving

**Share Some Hamiltons  
(\$10 bills) with the pantry**

**DATE CHANGE FYII!!**

**Place in offering or bring to the office by Sunday, Nov. 10**

We have found in recent years that a gift card serves our guests much better than handing them a frozen turkey. There are storage concerns both for the pantry and the guest. Truth be told not everyone eats turkey on the holiday, either by preference or cultural tradition. Pantry Director Lynne is polling our guests for the best store to get the cards and based on the responses, she will use the donations to purchase \$10 cards to share with our Thanksgiving bags this year.

## SOUP & SANDWICHES

# Clee<sup>in</sup> Park

Wednesday, 11:30am

Join us in the park for lunch. Fresh homemade soup and sandwiches. Free to all. Caring for our neighbors.

If you would like to volunteer to serve on a Wednesday, please contact [office@firstchurchinalbany.org](mailto:office@firstchurchinalbany.org)

**#firstchurchinmotion**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY



## NOVEMBER 2024

**MON**

**11**

**VETERANS' DAY  
OFFICE WILL BE OPEN**

**TUE**

**12**

**PANTRY 9 AM  
ZOOM BIBLE STUDY 1 PM**

**WED**

**13**



**SOUP & SANDWICHES 11:30PM  
CENTERING PRAYER 12 PM  
AA MEETING 12 PM  
ZOOM BIBLE STUDY 7:30PM**

**THU**

**14**

**PANTRY 9 AM  
CACC BOARD MTG 4 PM**

**SAT**

**16**

**CELEBRATION OF LIFE 11 AM  
OF EDWARD ANDREW "ANDY" MONDORE  
FOLLOWED BY A LUNCHEON IN ZIMMERMAN HALL**

**SUN**

**17**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP 10 AM  
WITH KENT BUSMAN, CAMP FOWLER  
COFFEE HOUR  
PACKING OF THANKSGIVING  
BLESSING BAGS AFTER WORSHIP**

**FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT  
[WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG](http://WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG)**



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