



The First Church in Albany

# Welcomes you

First Sunday in Lent  
February 26, 2023, 10am Worship Service

# **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.

## **First Sunday in Lent, February 26, 2023**



**Prelude Reflection** *Bayard Rustin, Civil Rights leader. Most famous for being the lead organizer of the 1963 March on Washington.*

“When an individual is protesting society’s refusal to acknowledge his dignity as a human being, his very act of protest confers dignity on him.”

**Prelude** “Praise My Soul the King of Heaven R. Hobby  
*Iteke Prins, organist*

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

**Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing** *Lenten Blessing*

But Jacob said, “I will not let you go, unless you bless me.” So he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” Then the man said, “You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed.”

## Lenten Introit & Draping of the Cross (Taizé)

### Wait for the Lord

Lento (♩ = 48)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

*Prayer in the spirit of the Taizé Community is a meditative form of common prayer. Gathered in the presence of Christ we sing uncomplicated, repetitive songs, uncluttered by too many words, allowing the mystery of God to become tangible through the beauty of simplicity. A few words sung over and over again reinforce the meditative quality of prayer. They express a basic reality of faith that can quickly be grasped by the intellect and that gradually penetrates the whole being.*

*Silence is observed by all prior to the service for prayer and reflection.*

## Call to Worship based on Isaiah 43:19-21

**Leader:** Let us worship God, who has done great things.

**People:** We rejoice in our God, who made a way through the desert of this world.

**Leader:** Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy to flow in the wasteland.

**People:** We are the people God has formed through Christ by the Spirit.

**Leader:** Let us worship God in spirit and in truth!

**People:** We praise God for saving us. Alleluia! We rejoice!



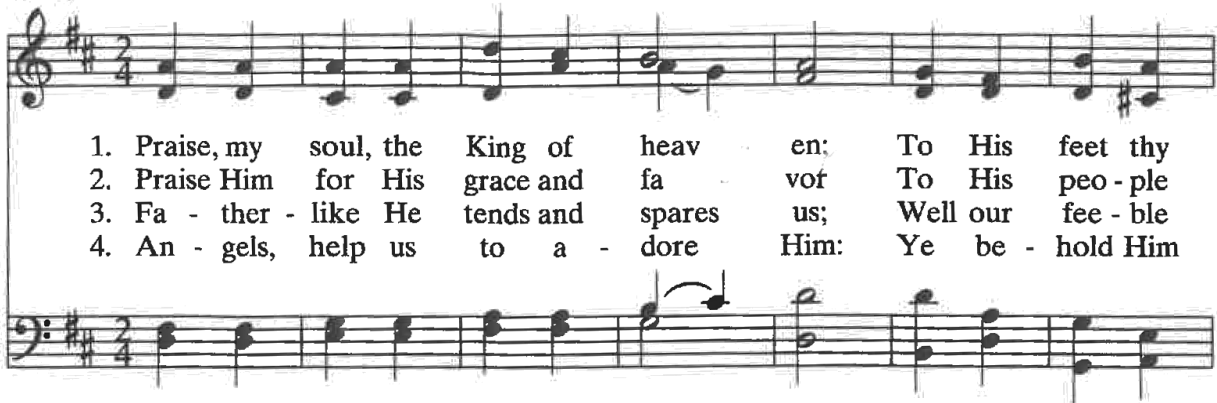
## \*Opening Hymn

# Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

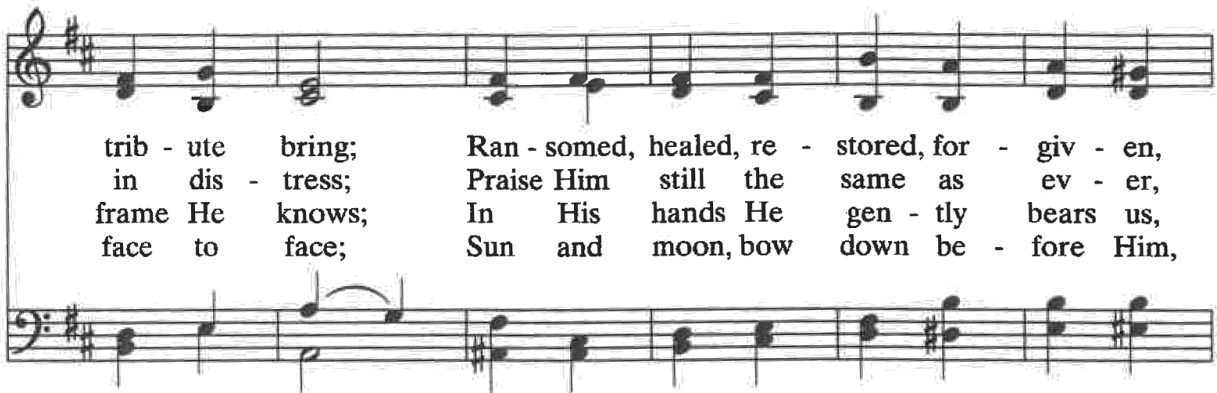
LAUDA ANIMA 8.7.8.7.8.7

Henry Francis Lyte, 1834; alt.

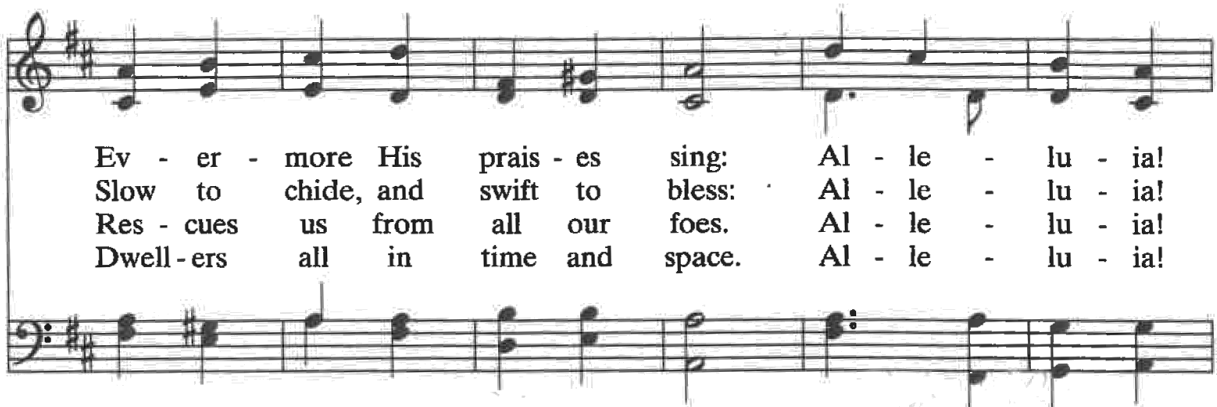
John Goss, 1869



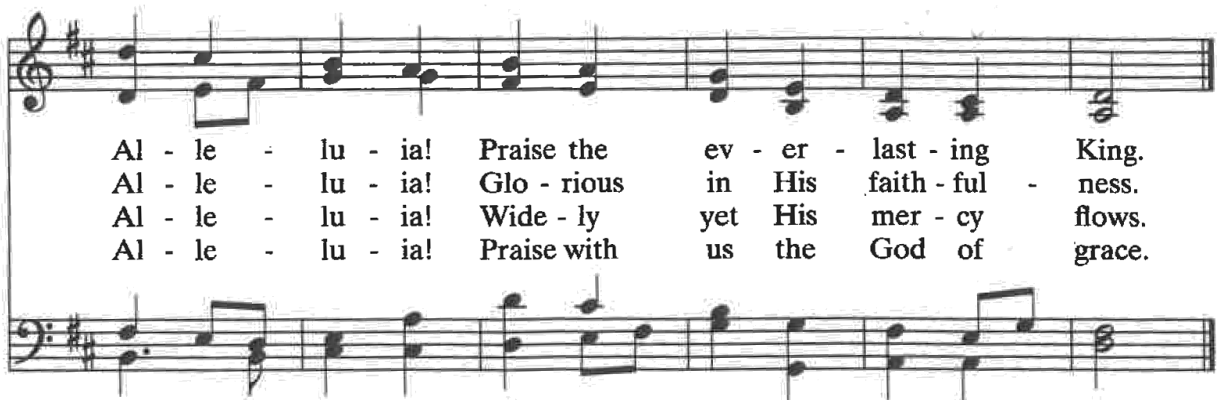
1. Praise, my soul, the King of heav en: To His feet thy  
2. Praise Him for His grace and fa vor To His peo - ple  
3. Fa - ther - like He tends and spares us; Well our fee - ble  
4. An - gels, help us to a - dore Him: Ye be - hold Him



trib - ute bring; Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,  
in dis - tress; Praise Him still the same as ev - er,  
frame He knows; In His hands He gen - tly bears us,  
face to face; Sun and moon, bow down be - fore Him,



Ev - er - more His prais - es sing: Al - le - lu - ia!  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless: Al - le - lu - ia!  
Res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Dwell - ers all in time and space. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in His faith - ful - ness.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet His mer - cy flows.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

**Prayer of Confession** *Adapted from the Christian Reformed Church in North America's Worship Sourcebook*

**Most merciful God whose Son, Jesus Christ, was tempted in every way, yet was without sin, we confess before you our own sinfulness; we have hungered after that which does not satisfy; we have compromised with evil; we have doubted your power to protect us. Have mercy on us. Forgive us. Restore in us such trust and love that we may walk in your ways and delight in doing what you desire. Amen.**

*Time of silence*

**Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law** *Adapted from the Christian Reformed Church in North America's Worship Sourcebook*

**Leader:** The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to examine our souls,  
**People:** **for we have not only met temptation, we have felt its grip.**

**Leader:** The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to mend our ways,  
**People:** **for we have not only committed sin, we have felt its sting.**

The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to rend our hearts,

**Leader:** **for we have not only witnessed forgiveness, we have felt its power.**

Hear the call of the Lord in the wilderness, and know it is saying you are forgiven. Let this empower you as you wrestle in life so you might live in Christ's peace.

**Choir Anthem** *"Jesus, Tempted in the Desert"*

**\*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** What does it mean to belong?

**Prayer for Illumination** *Please sing*

**God who journeys with us, as we enter this season of Lent, help us in the wilderness. Give us Jacob's courage to wrestle with life and you so we might, too, come to know your Word and be blessed. Amen.**

## Scripture Reading

Genesis 32:22–32

The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip. Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the thigh muscle that is on the hip socket, because he struck Jacob on the hip socket at the thigh muscle.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon Text

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.


Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## A Prayer of Blessing on the Word


## \*Hymn of Response When We Are Tested

Capo 2: (Dm) Em (Am) Bm (Dm) Em (Am) Bm




1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,  
 2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,  
 3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,  
 4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,

(Em) F#m (B7) C#7 (Em) F#m (Dsus) (D) Esus E



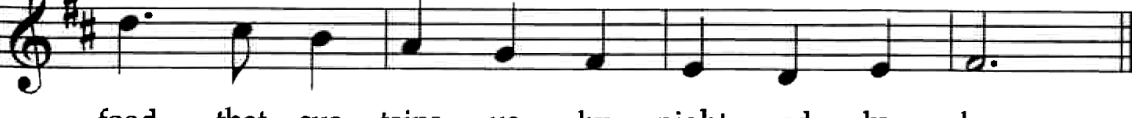
fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,  
 plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,  
 trad - ing the truth for the power to con - trol,  
 sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,

(G) A (D) E (Em7) F#m7 (F) G



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,  
 lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,  
 teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,  
 Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,

(Am6) Bm6 (C) D (Dm) Em (Am) (E) Bm F#



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.  
 trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.  
 seek - ing your will in the work that we do.  
 an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Although the Temptation of Christ is mentioned in all three Synoptic Gospels (Matthew 4:1–11/Mark 1:12–13/Luke 4:1–13), this hymn is based on the Lukan version. It is notable that each stanza begins “when,” not “if”; temptation is not an optional feature of the spiritual life.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1996

MUSIC: Carlton R. Young, 1996

Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company

Music © 1996 Abingdon Press (admin. Music Services, Brentwood, TN)

ANGELS OF HEALING

10.10.10.10

## **Profession of Faith** *Belgic Confession: Article 26 - The Intercession of Christ*

**“...For since he suffered, being tempted, he is also able to help those who are tempted.**

**[and], to encourage us more to approach him, [the author of Hebrews] says,**

**“Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us, therefore, approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need...”**

**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**

*Chorale on LAUDA ANIMA  
Iteke Prins, organist*

R. Hobby

**\*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

## Seek Ye First

*Descant*

Al - le - lu - ia; al -

D F#m G D G

1 Seek ye — first the king - dom of God and his  
 2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and  
 3 We do not live by bread — a - lone, but by

le - lu - ia, al - le -

D Em7 A7 D F#m

right - eous - ness, and all these things shall be  
 you shall find; knock and the door shall be  
 ev - ery word that pro - ceeds from the

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

G D G D Em7 A D

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.  
 o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.  
 mouth — of — God. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

Words: Matthew 6:33, 7:7, 4:4; para. Karen Lafferty, 1972, © 1972 Maranatha! Music, admin. Capitol CMG Publishing  
 Music (LAFFERTY irregular): Karen Lafferty, 1972, © 1972 Maranatha! Music, admin. Capitol CMG Publishing

## \*Charge & Blessing

### Postlude

“Finale”

R. Hobby

**Preacher:** Rev. Trey Tirpak

**Organist:** Iteke Prins

**Vocalists:** Choir

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

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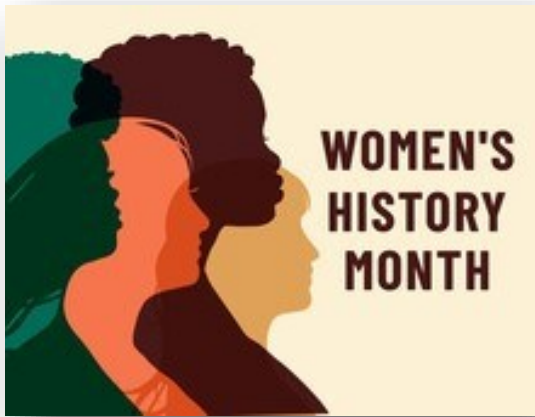
**Note:** You are invited to coffee and refreshments down in Zimmerman Hall. Today will be the first of the **All Members Series** starting at 11:20. “Grab some joe and get in the know!”

This Lent, we’re encouraging all those who are a part of First Church in any way to participate in our All Members series, which will serve as a “refresher” course on being part of a church and a new member’s class for those who would like to formally join First. Come learn about belonging!

## *Prayers, Joys & Concerns*

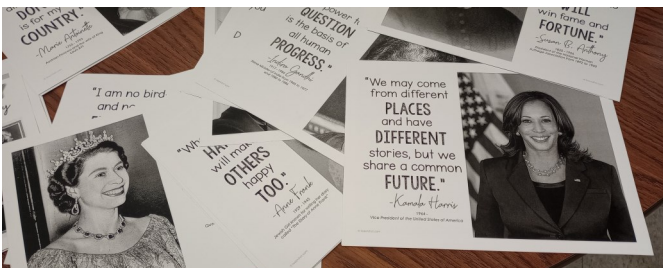
- Marilyn Bonam, Sara's mother
- Ken Lucas, friend of Philip Labatte
- Ian Leet
- Kokese Ballou
- Janie Unright, friend of the Andrews family
- Carol LaBatte
- Norma McClement
- For Jennifer Recene Gallagher
- Larry McCarthy, friend of the Andrews Family
- David Bradley
- For Jason Shahid
- The family of Danielle, for the year anniversary of her death
- Ruth and Josue Torres
- For Jim, Rose Hunsberger's father
- The Reohr Family
- 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
- 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
- For the survivors and rescue workers in Turkey and Syria after last week's earthquake. For all who lost loved ones.
- 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](mailto:office@firstchurchinalbany.org).*



This week, in honor of Women's History Month, starting in March, we will be putting up a display on the North Pearl Street fence that provides amazing examples of women who have impacted our world. In the vein of our StoryWalks, please bring your friends and family and enjoy being outdoors and learning about these important contributions.

**#firstchurchinmotion**



# POSTING VOLUNTEER NEEDED

## Volunteer Christian Education Coordinator

This person would oversee and help coordinate the different aspects of Christian education at First Church. This includes seniors, adults, youth, children and nursery activities.

The ideal person would have a love for learning and sharing the gospel. The ideal volunteer would respect and encourage others to use their gifts in service for the growth of all.



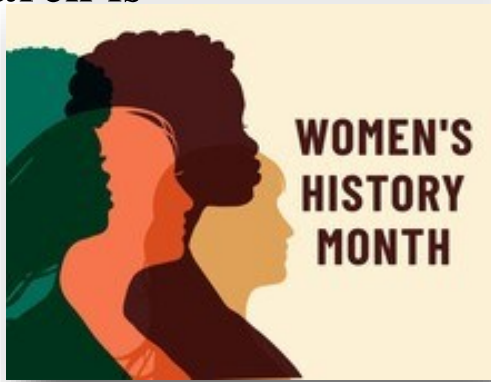
## We need your help!

We are collecting Plastic Easter Eggs and Candy in preparation for this year's **Easter Egg Hunt**. If you can contribute, please bring the items to the Workroom and leave them on the table. Candy that is individually wrapped preferred, but we will welcome Jelly Beans as well.

**Important:** Please, no candy with nuts. Thank you!



**March is**



## **This Week at the First Church in Albany**

- |             |      |            |   |
|-------------|------|------------|---|
| • Sunday    | 2.26 | 10am<br>AW | Indoor Worship at FCIA, also on Zoom<br>All Members' Class —<br>Zimmerman |
| • Monday    | 2.27 | 9am        | Food Pantry   |
| • Tuesday   | 2.28 | noon       | Zoom Book Study   |
| • Wednesday | 3.1  | 9am        | Food Pantry   |
|             |      | noon       | AA Meeting  |
|             |      | noon       | Centering Prayer in the Chapel  |
| • Thursday  | 3.2  | 11:30am    | Soup & Sandwiches in Clee Park  |
|             |      | 6pm        | Potluck in the Parlor   |
|             |      | 7pm        | A Special Night of Worship  |

AW = After Worship

### **Updated Info**

- See the insert for all of the Holy Week Events.
- The 9Up ministry is now meeting every Sunday with the exception of the first Sunday of the month (Communion Sunday).

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



### **First Church in Albany**

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

[www.firstchurchinalbany.org](http://www.firstchurchinalbany.org)

# Lent Special Services

**FCIA  
2023**

## **ASH WEDNESDAY 2.22.23**

- Service in Chapel at noon
- Ashes-to-Go 4:30pm-6pm in parking lot  
Drive-up and be blessed!

## **A SPECIAL NIGHT OF WORSHIP THURS. 3.2.23**

- Potluck at 6p; worship at 7pm in the Chapel  
Come and get creative with your Lenten Journey!

## **PALM SUNDAY 4.2.23**

- Youth process with palm fronds; gather at back of Sanctuary before service.

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE OF SHADOWS 4.6.23**

- First Church Sanctuary 6pm

## **HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE LAST SEVEN WORDS OF CHRIST**

- Sweet Pilgrim Baptist Church 7pm (after service at First)

## **ECOLOGICAL GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE WITH REV. MARK CHAFFIN 4.7.23**

- Details TBD

## **CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES ECUMENICAL SERVICE 4.7.23**

- Details TBD

## **HOLY SATURDAY LITURGY & EUCHARIST 4.8.23**

- Cathedral of All Saints, Albany 9am

## **THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER 4.8.23**

- Cathedral of All Saints, Albany 7pm

## **FOCUS SUNRISE SERVICE 4.9.23**

- West Capital Park Time TBD

## **EASTER SUNDAY 4.9.23**

- New members join First Church during the Easter Worship service

Check each week for updates to the schedule.



WE ARE SO HAPPY TO HAVE YOU AS PART OF  
**THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY**

*Family*

join us for the  
**ALL-MEMBERS  
 SERIES**

Starting next Sunday, February 26, 2023,  
 and continuing through Lent,  
 we're encouraging all those who are a part  
 of First Church in any way to participate in  
 our All-Members Series, which will serve as a  
 "refresher" course on being part of a church  
 and a new member's class for those who  
 would like to formally join First.

*Come learn about belonging!*

## Lent 2023 Second Hour Calendar

Date:	Event:	Details:
Feb. 26, 2023 Sunday, Lent 1	After Worship: <b>All Members'</b> Class: <i>Belonging</i> Part 1	Ch. 1 & 2: What does it mean to belong, and belong to Jesus?
Mar. 5, 2023 Sunday, Lent 2	After Worship: <b>All Members'</b> Class: <i>Belonging</i> Part 2	Ch. 3: What does it mean to belong to a church?
Mar. 12, 2023 Sunday, Lent 3	After Worship: <b>All Members'</b> Class: <i>Belonging</i> Part 3	Ch. 4: What does it mean to belong to an RCA church?
Mar. 19, 2023 Sunday, Lent 4	After Worship: <b>All Members'</b> Class: <i>Belonging</i> Part 4	Ch. 5 & 6: What does it mean to belong to a local congregation?
Mar. 26, 2023 Sunday, Lent 5	After Worship: <b>All Members'</b> Class: <i>Belonging</i> Part 5	Ch. 7-9: What does it mean to belong to First Church?
Apr. 2, 2023 Palm Sunday	After Worship: Who Are Our Catechumenate?	<b>Get to know those joining First!</b> (Elders must attend)