

# The First Church in Albany *Welcomes you*



**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
**May 14, 2023**  
**10am Service**

Young Mother Sewing by Mary Cassatt 1900

**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.*

**Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 14, 2023**

**Prelude Reflection** *Job 33:4 with feminine grammar restored by the Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney*

“The Spirit of God, She has made me, and the breath of the nursing God, She gives me life.”

**Prelude** *“Like the First Bird”* Al Fedak

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

**Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing**

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” **Amen.** 2 Corinthians 13:14

**Call to Worship** *Inspired by the Gospel of John's Farewell Discourse, ch.s 14-17*

Leader: Jesus says, “If you love me,

**People: keep my commandments.”**

Leader: “This is my commandment,

**People: that you love one another as I have loved you.”**

Leader: Jesus also said, “I have said these things to you while I am still with you, But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit...

**People: will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you.”**

Leader: So, come, Holy Spirit! Abide with us now.

**People: Remind and teach us how to love as Christ loved us.**

# \*Opening Hymn For All the Faithful Women

Capo 3: (C) (Am7) (F) (G) (C)  
 Eb Cm7 Ab Bb Eb

1 For all the faith - ful wom - en who served in  
 2 We praise your name for Mir - iam, who sang tri -  
 3 We sing of bus - y Mar - tha, who toiled with  
 4 Lord, hear our praise of Dor - cas, who served the

(G) (C) (Am7) (Dm) (G)  
 Bb Eb Cm7 Fm Bb

days of old, to you shall thanks be giv - en; to  
 um - phant - ly while Pha - raoh's vaunt - ed ar - my lay  
 pot and pan while Mar - y sat in si - lence to  
 sick and poor. Her hands were cups of kind - ness, her

(C) (G7) (C) (Am)  
 Eb Bb7 Eb Cm

all, their sto - ry told. They served with strength and  
 drowned be - neath the sea; for Ruth, who left her  
 hear the word a - gain. We praise the oth - er  
 heart an o - pen door. O God, for saints and

(D) (G) (F) (G) (C)  
 F Bb Ab Bb Eb

glad - ness in tasks your wis - dom gave. To you their  
 home - land and ven - tured forth in faith, who pledged to  
 Mar - y, who has - tened to the tomb and found her  
 ser - vants, our fer - vent prayer we raise, that, faith - ful

(Am7) (F) (G) (C) (Dm) (G) (C)  
 Cm7 Ab Bb Eb Fm Bb Eb

lives bore wit - ness, pro - claimed your power to save.  
 serve and wor - ship Na - o - mi's God till death.  
 Lord a - ris - en, dis - pel - ling doubt and gloom.  
 in your ser - vice, our lives may sing your praise.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

Created to honor the tenth anniversary of the first ordination of a woman in the Lutheran Church in America, this text celebrates representative women of the Bible: Miriam and Ruth from Hebrew Scripture, Mary, Martha, and Mary Magdalene from the gospels, and Dorcas from Acts.



## Prayer of Confession

**Living God, long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection, and the world was changed forever. Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true. Amen.**

*Time of silent confession*

## Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law

Friends, on this Mother's Day, be reminded that scripture describes God as a mother-hen and be blessed. Be blessed by God and by all those who reflect God's mothering love, and go out and do likewise. Amen.

## \*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

**Spirit of the Living God, empower us to keep your commandments, that we may show forth your love with gentle word and reverent deed to all. Amen.**

## Testimonies

Imani Brewer and Nicole Marsh-Sivaslian

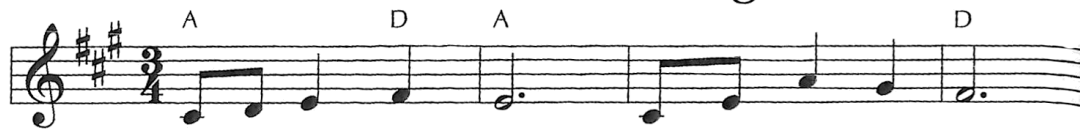
## A Prayer of Blessing on the Word





## \*Hymn of Response

# Woman in the Night



1 Wom-an in the night, spent from giv - ing birth,  
 2 Wom-an at the well, ques - tion the Mes - siah;  
 3 Wom-an in the house, nur - tured to be meek,  
 4 Wom-en on the hill, stand when men have fled;



guard our pre - cious light; peace is on the earth.  
 find your friends and tell: drink your heart's de - sire!  
 leave your sec - ond place, lis - ten, think, and speak!  
 Christ needs lov - ing still, though your hope is dead.



Wom-an in the crowd, creep - ing up be - hind,  
 Wom-an at the feast, let the righ - teous stare;  
 Wom-en on the road, from your sick - ness freed,  
 Wom-en in the dawn, care and spic - es bring,



touch - ing is al - lowed: seek and you will find!  
 come and go in peace; love him with your hair!  
 wit - ness and pro - vide, join - ing word and deed:  
 ear - li - est to mourn, ear - li - est to sing!



Refrain Come and join the song, wom - en, chil - dren, men.



Je - sus makes us free to live a - gain!

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

Beginning with a reference to Mary giving birth to Jesus, this text describes a series of women who had important encounters with his life, ministry, death, and resurrection. The dancelike refrain celebrates how their experiences reveal that the Good News is for all people.

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1982; rev. 1995

MUSIC: Alfred V. Fedak, 1989

Text © 1983, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company

Music © 1990 Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

NEW DISCIPLES (Fedak)

5.5.5.5.D with refrain

## 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**                    *“For Those Who Have a Mother’s Heart”*    E. Downing/I. Prins  
   *Becky Hudak, soloist*

*For those who have a mother's heart  
But did not children bear,  
They choose to nurture those in need  
Someone to give them care.*

*They mother those in need of love  
By helping them to find  
New ways to bring them courage, hope,  
That nourish heart and mind*

*Uphold them as their love they share  
The love which they receive from you  
Their God, who lends them strength  
To live what they believe*

*Those lives show forth your parent love  
By tending those in need  
They know the joy of faith in you  
Lived well in word and deed*



**\*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.***

## 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.**

\*Congregation Meeting  
Hymn

# Let Us Build a House



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can  
2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are  
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,  
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the  
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell  
strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek  
wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground  
wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,  
vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the  
as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the  
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as  
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we  
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us  
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
one we claim the faith of Je - sus:  
share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;  
bring an end to fear and dan - ger:  
house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.



## \*Charge & Blessing

Postlude

*“Lobe Den Herren”*

arr. F. Saffe

*CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689*

### Today's Worship Team:

**Preacher(s):** Imani Brewer & Nicole Marsh-Silvaslian

**Liturgist:** Rev. Trey Tirpak

**Organist:** Itেকে Prins

**Soloist:** Becky Hudak

**Tech Team:** Joshua Bliss

Note: Members, please proceed downstairs to Zimmerman Hall for our

#### Elder Nominees:

- Norma Jean Ballou
- Tom Allison

#### Deacon Nominees:

- Deb Anderson
- Becky Hudak
- Erica Zetterholm-Bliss

#### Trustee Nominees:

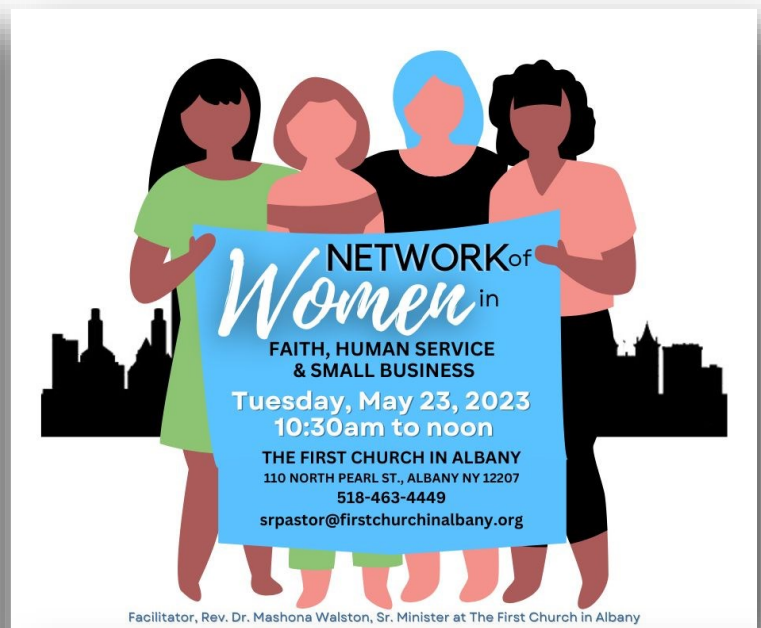
- David Bradley
- Robert Dorn
- Ross Westhuis

## Prayers, Joys & Concerns

- Shekia, granddaughter of Joeanna Brown, with a health issue and family concerns
- For the family and friends of Mary Ann Selmer, recently laid to rest
- Ian Leet, continuing to gain strength from illness
- Sam, son of Barb and Dave Andrews
- Sam, cousin of Barb Andrews
- Joe Vasta and Albie, friends of the Persons
- Eula, friend of Joeanna Brown
- Marilyn Bonam, Sara's mother
- Sharnelle Jones
- Ken Lucas, friend of Philip Labatte
- Kokese Ballou
- Janie Unright, friend of the Andrews family
- Carol LaBatte
- Norma McClement
- For Jennifer Recene Gallagher
- David Bradley
- For Jason Shahid
- Ruth and Josue Torres
- For Jim, Rose Hunsberger's father
- 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
- 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
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Donna Schultz
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Clergy, staff and leaders of the First Church in Albany
- Prayers for 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.
- Travel mercies for some of our First Church family traveling abroad, including Rev. Mashona, her son Chance, Norma Jean Ballou, and Itেকে Prins.

**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).

## Upcoming events...



## Tulips for Albany



**May 3, 2023–September 10, 2023**

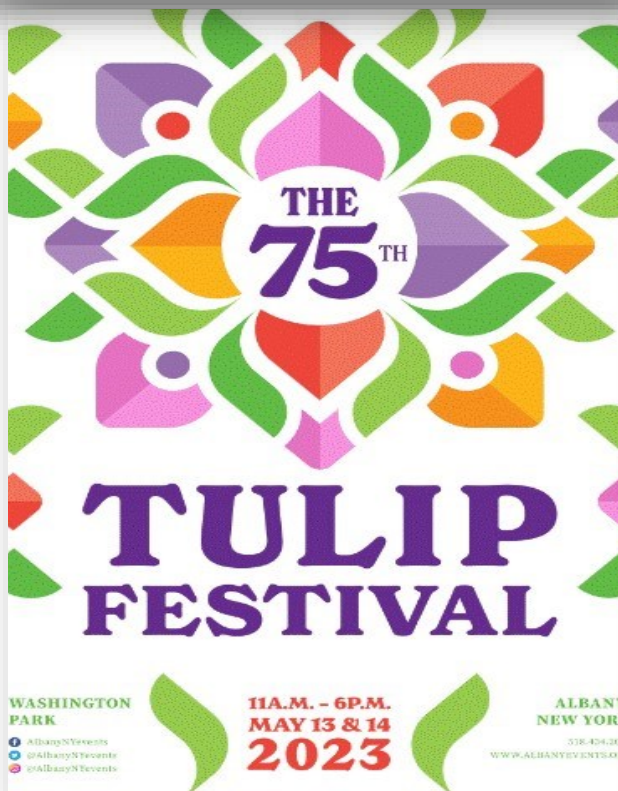
Tulips for Albany highlights the seventy-five-year history of Albany's beloved Tulip Festival.

**Several items from The First Church in Albany's historical collection are on display for this exhibition.**

In 1947, Albany adopted the Dutch city of Nijmegen as a sister city and sent supplies to help rebuild the war-ravaged city. In gratitude, the Netherlands sent thousands of tulip bulbs to Albany, which in 1948 Mayor Erastus Corning 2nd proclaimed Albany's official flower and thus the Tulip Festival was born. Crowns and regalia worn by the Tulip Queens over the years will be displayed alongside designs for the tulip beds in Washington Park and photographs documenting the celebration.

**ALBANY INSTITUTE  
OF HISTORY & ART**

125 Washington Ave, Albany, NY 12210 - 518.463.4478  
www.albanyinstitute.org/exhibition/tulips-for-albany







# THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

## SUMMER EVENTS CALENDAR

### MAY

- 7 - HERITAGE SUNDAY, CROP WALK, START OF TULIP TIME
- 14 - CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, MOTHER'S DAY, END OF TULIP TIME
- 17 - (WEDNESDAY) LAST WEATHERVANES UNTIL THE FALL
- 21 - ASCENSION SUNDAY, **FIRST DRIVE-IN (BRING CHAIRS!)**,
- 23 - (TUESDAY) NETWORK OF WOMEN IN FAITH, HUMAN SERVICES, AND BUSINESS
- 28 - PENTECOST, INSTALLATION OF ELDERS & DEACONS
- 29 - (MONDAY) OFFICE CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY

### JULY

- 2 - FOCUS SUNDAY, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN IN ALBANY, **NO WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH**
- 4 - (TUESDAY) OFFICE CLOSED FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 16 - BRING YOUR BIKE AND RIDE THE ALBANY SKYWAY AFTER WORSHIP! (WALKERS WELCOME!)
- 30 - SPECIAL COMMUNION IN CLEE PARK AFTER WORSHIP



### AUGUST

- 6 - FOCUS SUNDAY, TRINITY UNITED METHODIST, **NO WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH**
- 13 - FIRST CHURCH BIRTHDAY BASH #381! ENJOY SOME SPECIAL REFRESHMENTS AFTER WORSHIP
- 20 - ALOHA ATTIRE COMPETITION. COME DRESSED IN YOUR ALOHA BEST!
- 27 - SPECIAL COMMUNION IN CLEE PARK AFTER WORSHIP

### JUNE

- 1 - (THURSDAY) START OF HOT DOGS IN CLEE PARK EVERY THURSDAY
- 4 - RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES SUNDAY
- 11 - PRIDE SUNDAY, GO TO CAPITAL PRIDE AFTER WORSHIP
- 18 - JUNETEENTH SUNDAY, FATHER'S DAY
- 19 - (MONDAY) OFFICE CLOSED FOR JUNETEENTH
- 25 - SPECIAL COMMUNION IN CLEE PARK AFTER WORSHIP



### SEPTEMBER

- 3 - FOCUS SUNDAY, EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH, **NO WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH**
- 4 - (MONDAY) OFFICE CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY
- 17 - LAST DRIVE-IN SERVICE
- 24 - BACK TO **IN-DOOR SERVICE**, BLESSINGS OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS



REMINDER: THIS IS JUST THE CALENDAR OF SPECIAL SUNDAYS, HOLIDAYS, AND EVENTS. KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR ANY MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

SUMMER 2023



# The First Church in Albany

## MAY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>HAPPY</b> <i>Mother's</i> <b>Day</b>						
 <b>Albany Tulip Fest</b> <b>May 13 &amp; 14</b>	 1 Prayer Shawl Mtg. 11am	Zoom Study noon 2	 3 AA	 4 A Night of Worship	5 Cinco de Mayo	6
 7 Heritage Sunday	 8	Zoom Study noon 9	 10 AA	11	12	13
 14 Mother's Day & Congregational Mtg.	 15	Zoom Study noon 16	 17 AA	18	19	20
 21 	 22	Zoom Study noon 23 Women's Network Event	 24 AA	25	26	27
 28 Pentecost	 29 Memorial Day Office Closed	Zoom Study noon 30	 31 AA	 <b>Heritage Sunday</b> <b>May 7</b> The First Church in Albany		

### Key:

								<b>AW</b> After Worship
Pantry 9am	Centering Prayer 12pm	Drive In Worship 10am	Communion Sunday	Lemonade Lull	Coffee Hour	Weathervanes 12:30pm	Choir Rehearsal	



## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

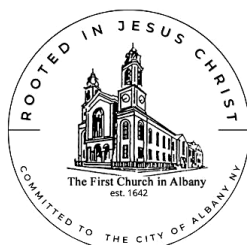
- Sunday 5.14
  - 10am Mother's Day
  - AW Indoor Worship at FCIA, also on Zoom Fellowship and Coffee in Zimmerman, Congregational Meeting
- Monday 5.15
  - 9am Food Pantry
- Tuesday 5.16
  - noon Zoom Book Study
- Wednesday 5.17
  - 9am Food Pantry
  - noon AA Meeting
  - noon Centering Prayer in the Chapel
  - 12:30pm Last Weathervanes until Fall
- Thursday 5.18
  - Ascension Day

*AW = After Worship*

### Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, May 17—Last Weathervanes Gathering until Fall
- **Sunday, May 21—First Drive-In of 2023**
- Tuesday, May 23—Networking Event for Albany Area Women in Faith, Human Services and Business
- Sunday, May 28—Pentecost, Installation of Officers
- Monday, May 29—Memorial Day, Office and Pantry Closed

\*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)