

The First Church in Albany

Welcomes you



Ascension Sunday

May 29, 2022, 10am

Drive-In 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.

Ascension Sunday

May 29, 2022

Tune in to 87.9FM on your car radio

Prelude *"O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High"* arr. L.R. Hill
Iteke Prins, keyboardist

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." 2 Corinthians 13:14

Call to Worship *An Ascension Sunday Call to Worship Litany*

Leader: O church, on this Ascension Sunday, what is it that we remember together?

People: We remember that Christ has ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

Leader: Does this mean that we are without Christ?

People: Though Christ has ascended to heaven for our good, he is always present to us by his Spirit, and knows our joys, sorrows, and misery.

Leader: So, why then did Christ ascend to sit at the Father's right hand?

People: At the Father's right hand, Christ serves as our high priest, and also our King, ruling over all time and all things; one day he, too, will also serve as the good and just judge of all peoples.

Leader: Let us now celebrate how Christ's work of love did not stop thousands of years ago, but continues today at the Father's right hand: hearing our prayers, ruling and working for heaven and earth to meet, and judging all humanity in perfect love.

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all
 2 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
 3 For us by wick - ed - ness be - trayed, for us, in
 4 For us he rose from death a - gain; for us he
 5 All glo - ry to our Lord and God, for love so

thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
 fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tions
 crown of thorns ar - rayed, he bore the shame - ful
 went on high to reign; for us he sent the
 deep, so high, so broad: the Trin - i - ty whom

God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake.
 sharp he knew, for us, the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
 cross and death; for us gave up his dy - ing breath.
 Spir - it here to guide, to strength - en, and to cheer.
 we a - dore for - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

Reducing a twenty-three-stanza Latin text to these five English stanzas intensifies this survey of the mystery of the Incarnation and strengthens the repeated reminder that all was done "for us." A comparable tone of proclamation animates this 15th-century song celebrating a military victory.

TEXT: Thomas à Kempis, 15th cent.; trans. Benjamin Webb, 1854, alt.
MUSIC: "The Agincourt Song," c. 1415; harm. Alfred V. Fedak, 1993
Music Harm. © 1993 Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

DEO GRACIAS
LM
(alternate harmonization, 189)

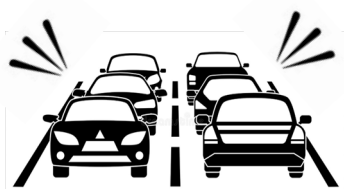
Prayer of Confession

Risen and ascended Jesus, we confess that sometimes we live as if you are a thing of the past and you are not at work today. Remind us that you are on the throne right now; you hear our prayers, and you are working to make “thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Send your Spirit to transform us to become ambassadors of your kingdom, and give us the strength so we might see that day when heaven and earth truly meet and your just and good reign is complete.

Assurance of Pardon *from Revelation 21*

Though Christ is ascended and can feel distant, the good news is that one day heaven and earth will be joined together in perfect harmony, and Christ’s reign of peace will be fully realized. Hear these words from the end of the bible, the book of Revelation:

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.”



***Passing the Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us greet one another with a honk of the horn or hand-sign of peace.



Prayer for Illumination

Christ who is our high priest—seated at the right hand of God the Father and tested in every way that we are—send your Spirit to comfort us in times of loss, convince us of what we need to do, and catalyze us to the action you want us to take. In your name we pray, amen.



Then Jesus said to the disciples, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

“The Only King and Head of the Church”

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

*Hymn of Response & Offering

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

1 Come, Chris - tians, join to sing: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
2 Come, lift your hearts on high: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
3 Praise yet our Christ a - gain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Loud praise to Christ our King: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
Let prais - es fill the sky: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
Life shall not end the strain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - joice;
He is our guide and friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;
On heav - en's bliss - ful shore his good - ness we'll a - dore,

praise is his gra - cious choice: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
his love shall nev - er end: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
sing - ing for - ev - er - more: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Like many other hymns of praise, this text was originally addressed to children but has been embraced by adults as well. Although the tune's repetitive elements suggest folk origins (possibly with alternating groups of singers), no specific source has been identified.

Prayers of the People

**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.**



***Tolling of the Bell**

Please rise in body or in spirit for the tolling of the First Church bell, which represents the 40 lives lost to gun violence over the past two weeks here in Albany, Buffalo, Texas, and California.

***Charge & Blessing**

***Postlude**

*“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”
Margaret Randall, keyboardist*

V. Labenske

CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689

*Thank you for worshiping with us today!
All are invited to join us in Clee Park for our Lemonade Lull
Have a blessed week!*

After the service, join us as FCIA walks the Albany Skyway.

Worship Leadership:

Preacher: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Liturgist: Cameron Carley

Keyboardist: Itেকে Prins

Technical Team: Joshua Bliss, and Stephen Reohr

NOMINATIONS

LIST OF INDIVIDUALS NOMINATED FOR OFFICE AT THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

FOR ELDER - Joanne Farrell, Barbara Andrews

FOR TRUSTEE - Edward Monthie (current trustee), Joyce Recene (current trustee), Raymond Van Epps (current trustee), Monica Marsh, Karen Van Epps

The Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 5th,
after the Drive-In Service.

Prayers how can we be praying for you?

- For the friends and family of Jean Reohr, Jay Reohr's mother
- For Becky Hudak
- For Dee and Ani
- For Mia and Wim Westman
- For Barbara W., dear friend of Barb & Dave Andrews and Donna Jones
- For friends and family of Edward Baskerville Sr.
- John Utley, brother of Judith Utley Suess
- For the friends and family of Annie Holt, daughter of First Church member Mamie Holt.
- Beverly, a friend of Clarice Milliken
- For Clarice Milliken in the loss of a family member
- Family and friends of Shirley Nash
- Steve Hoffman
- Harold Bushnell
- Cheri Jones
- Frank Jeffries (son of Norma McClement)
- Rev. Susan Vincent Cox for the passing of her mother Barbara
- Norma McClement
- Becky Gardner
- Norma and Leo, neighbors of Audrey Ming
- Ralph McNeil, brother of Norma Jean Ballou
- For Cheri Scully, friend of the Persons family
- Family of Nathaniel Marable
- Mary Ann Selmer
- For Katherine's grandmother
- For the family of Danielle as they mourn her passing, for her children (Melvin, Traekwon, Antonio, Julius, Brandon, and Christopher)
- Carol LaBatte
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Jane, sister of Donna Schultz
- Elaine and Jim Jenks, Rose Hunsberger's parents
- Jeff Curry
- Haleigh Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Neil Keen
- Fran Carr Morton
- Harriet Stockhoff
- Kathy Stallmer (Monthie family)
- Cheryl Gowie
- Ada Harris
- Gwen, friend of Becky Gardner
- Charles Welge
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Clergy, staff and leaders of the First Church in Albany
- For all those impacted by gun violence, most recently for the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, prayers as they grieve and heal.

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

Join us
for a
**A Night of
Pentecost Worship**

Music by Glenn Claydon
Thursday, June 2 at 7pm
in the Stephen James Chapel

The First Church in Albany
110 North Pearl St. Albany NY 12207

www.firstchurchinalbany.org

We will gather in the
Parlor at 6pm for a
potluck dinner prior to
the service.

All are welcome!

Help us cover those
weeks when our
long-time volunteers
might be out of town on
holiday this summer.

Sign up with a friend or
family member.
Volunteer together!



FCIA FOOD PANTRY
NEEDS VOLUNTEERS
FOR THE SUMMER
Please connect with pantry
director **Lorraine Houk**
lorraineh@focuschurches.net
The FCIA Food Pantry is open
Monday and Wednesday,
9am-11:30am



**THANK
YOU!**

**TO THE
VOLUNTEERS**

who helped us
welcome
the Albany Classis
to First Church
last Tuesday evening!



The Prayer Shawl Ministry

**The Prayer Shawl Ministry is on a summer hiatus.
Watch for an announcement at the end of the
summer for meetings to begin again. Prayer shawls
and Prayer squares are available.**



If you know of someone who
needs a shawl, please tell
Gertrude Dorn, Kathy Monthie,
Mary Weijola or Jean Lamere.

Do summer sports and games have you feeling a little competitive, First Church?

Get Ready!

The First Annual, First Church Lawn Chair Set-up Competition



That's right. Bring your lawn chair, decorate it, give it a theme, and make a summer furniture fashion statement.

We want to get everyone out of their cars and into the best looking lawn chairs Albany has every seen!

On June 26th,
we will announce the winner!!!



HOT DOG THURSDAY WITH CLEO

Our Summer Outreach to All of Our Neighbors



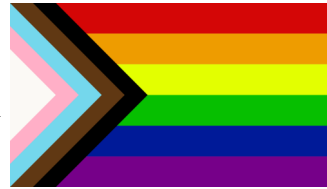
Beginning on Thursday, June 2nd, we welcome back Chef Jeff to Clee Park for Hot Dog Thursdays! From 11:30am-12:30pm each Thursday, we'll be serving up hot dogs, chips, fruit, etc. to our neighbors. Please consider volunteering to help Jeff serve.

If you want to help, contact the office at office@firstchurchinalbany.org to sign up. We could also use donations. Please consider donating bottled water, soda, seltzer, individual bags of chips, fruit like apples and oranges, and most importantly hotdogs (all-beef only, please!) and hotdog buns! We are looking forward to a wonderful season!



This Week at the First Church in Albany

June is Pride Month



- Sunday 5.29 10am Drive-in Worship, also on Zoom followed by Skywalk Albany
- **Monday 5.30** **Memorial Day Holiday—office & pantry are closed**
- Tuesday 5.31 12pm Adult Scripture Study
- Wednesday 6.1 9am Food Pantry
- 12pm AA Meeting
- 12pm Centering Prayer
- Thursday 6.2 7pm A Night of Worship: Pentecost

Upcoming Events

- Sunday 6.5 10:45am **Pentecost**
Congregational Meeting after worship
- Sunday 6.12 Pride Sunday

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

GROUP & MINISTRY LEADERS, SEND US YOUR

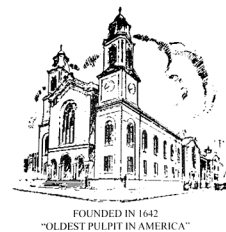
CALENDAR UPDATES

ONE-TIME EVENTS
OR RECURRING MEETINGS

PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE WITH YOUR SCHEDULED GATHERINGS SO THAT WE CAN PUT THEM ON THE CHURCH EVENT AND OPERATIONAL CALENDARS.



EMAIL
OFFICE@FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG
OR CALL
518-463-4449



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