



# GRADUATE APPRECIATION

**DRIVE-IN**

Sunday, June 4, 2023

**WORSHIP**

*Communion Sunday*

## Tune to 87.9 FM on your car radio

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### **Fitness Faith connection “ Stretch our Faith”**

We love our drive-in service as it allows us to do things we don't usually do! This summer, we encourage you to get out of your cars and stretch during the prelude as a way to awaken your body to worship God.

**Prelude**                      *“Prelude in C”*                      J.S. Bach

### **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** *Based on 1 John 4:7-12*

Leader: Beloved, let us love one another,

**People: because love is from God.**

Leader: Whoever does not love does not know God,

**People: for God is love.**

Leader: No one has ever seen God; yet, if we love one another,

**People: God lives in us, and God's love is perfected in us.**

### **\*Opening Hymn**

*“Come, Join the Dance of Trinity”*

*(see insert)*

## Prayer of Confession & New Living

God who is mystery, on this Trinity and Graduate Recognition Sunday, we confess to not regularly wanting or seeking to learn more about you. Move us today, to be inspired by those who have chosen to learn. Make us into life-long learners of the mystery of love, and in so doing, set us free. Amen.

**\*Passing the Peace** (during the passing of the peace, children please come forward for a message and blessing)



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 and hand-sign of peace.



**Children's Message & Blessing** Learning is an act of gratitude.

“To be human is to be that place in creation where God's goodness finds its answer in gratitude. I see Christian learning as, fundamentally, an act of gratitude to God.” – Dr. Nicholas Wolterstorff; Calvin College, Yale Divinity School, Notre Dame; *Educating for Shalom*.

## Prayer of Illumination

**God, make your presence known to us today, so that we might know the mystery that is you. Amen.**

## Sermon Text 1 John 4:7-8, 16b

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God... Whoever lives in love, lives in God, and God in them.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon            The Mystery of God

## A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

## \*Hymn of Communion Preparation & Offering

*“We Are In the Spirit” (see insert)*

## The Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## 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.**

### **\*Charge & Blessing**

**\*Postlude**      *“To God be the Glory” arr. J. Carter*

*“We do not want to hear that mystery is the root of everything comprehensible, clear, and revealed...But mystery does not simply mean that we do not know something. It is not the most distant star that is the greatest mystery; quite the contrary, the nearer something comes to us and the better we know it, the more mysterious it becomes. It is not the most distant person that is the greatest mystery, but the one nearest to us...It is the deepest of all mysteries when two people come so near that they love one another...God lives in mystery.” – Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Sermon: “Mystery” on Trinity Sunday 1934*

**Note:** Lemonade Lull in Clee Park – join for a time of refreshments and fellowship!

# GRADUATE APPRECIATION

- Kaitlyn Bliss, Schenectady County Community College
- Nicole Marsh-Sivaslian, Bryant & Stratton College



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## Recently Elected First Church Office Bearers

### **Elders:**

Norma Jean Ballou  
Tom Allison

### **Deacons:**

Deb Anderson  
Becky Hudak  
Zak Morton  
Erica Zetterholm-Bliss

### **Trustees:**

David Bradley  
Robert Dorn  
Becky Mondore  
Ross Westhuis

**Ordination/Installation of Office Bearers** will be held on Sunday, June 25th.



**When?:** Sunday, June 11th (Marching starts at 11:45, but come earlier!)

**Where?:** Marching starts on State St. and ends in Washington Park.

**Who is invited?:** *Everyone!* The First Church in Albany, in conjunction with RoomForAll, will be coordinating a group to march in the pride parade. Let's show that Reformed folk truly believe God loves everyone!

**How do we get involved?:** Connect with Rev. Trey Tirpak at The First Church in Albany, and let him know that your group would like to join: (518) 463-4449

**What should we bring?:** Water (lots of it!), pride gear, and a joyful spirit.

**Have other questions?:** Please reach out to Rev. Trey at the above info.



## Prayers, Joys & Concerns

- For Sara Bonam-Welge and family as they mourn the passing of her mother Marilyn
- Deborah Paris, daughter of Betty Pierce, after a fall.
- For friends and family of George Kass as they mourn his passing
- Shekia, granddaughter of Joanna Brown, with a health issue and family concerns
- Ian Leet, continuing to gain strength from illness
- Sam, son of Barb and Dave Andrews
- Sam, cousin of Barb Andrews
- For Barb and Dave Andrews as they take on the role of caretakers
- Joe Vasta and Albie, friends of the Persons
- Eula, friend of Joanna Brown
- 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
- 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.

*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).*



## What's Happening This Week?

# The First Church in Albany

- Sunday 6.4 10am **Drive-In Worship** at FCIA, also on Zoom  
AW Lemonade Lull in Clee Park
- Monday 6.5 9am Pantry
- Tuesday 6.6 noon Zoom Book Study  
5:30pm Consistory Mtg. in the Parlor
- Wednesday 6.7 9am Food Pantry  
noon AA Meeting  
noon **Centering Prayer in the Parlor (change)**
- Thursday 6.8 11:30am Hot Dogs in Clee Park

*AW = After Worship*

## Upcoming Events

- Sunday, June 11, Pride Sunday, Capital Pride After Worship
- Sunday, June 18, Father's Day and Juneteenth recognition
- Sunday, June 19, Office Closed for Juneteenth Holiday

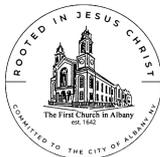
\*Meeting Schedules are subject to change. Watch your email for

**Hot Dog**  
**THURSDAY**  
**IS BACK!**

Join us each Thursday,  
from 11:30am-1:00pm  
in Clee Park  
for a free Hot Dog lunch



*Please Share and Come to Help Out!*



## First Church in Albany

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

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



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SUSAN HERMANCE-FEDAK, DIRECTOR

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**JUNE 4, 2023 | 3:00PM**

The concert will include a Requiem commissioned by Cliff and Jean Lamere and composed by Alfred V. Fedak. It will be accompanied by organ and a string ensemble. See Iteke Prins for more information.

# THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY SUMMER EVENTS CALENDAR



## 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

## 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



## 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

## 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

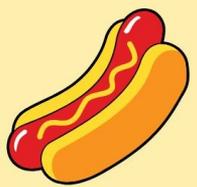


REMINDER: THIS IS JUST THE CALENDAR OF SPECIAL SUNDAYS, HOLIDAYS, AND EVENTS. KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR ANY MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

SUMMER 2023

# Hot Dog THURSDAY IS BACK!

Join us each Thursday,  
from 11:30am-1:00pm  
in Clee Park  
for a free Hot Dog lunch



Please Share and Come to Help Out!

# Come, Join the Dance of Trinity

Em C D/C G D G Am Dsus<sup>4</sup> D

1 Come, join the dance of Trin-i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun—  
 2 Come, see the face of Trin-i - ty, new - born in Beth - le - hem;  
 3 Come, speak a - loud of Trin-i - ty, as wind and tongues of flame  
 4 With - in the dance of Trin-i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun,

C Am D Em D G Am Em

the in - ter - weav - ing of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.  
 then blood - ied by a crown of thorns out - side Je - ru - sa - lem.  
 set peo - ple free at Pen - te - cost to tell the Sav - iour's name.  
 we sing the prais - es of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.

Bm Em Am D G C Dsus<sup>4</sup> D

The u - ni - verse of space and time did not a - rise by chance,  
 The dance of Trin - i - ty is meant for hu - man flesh and bone;  
 We know the yoke of sin and death, our necks have worn it smooth;  
 Let voic - es rise and in - ter - weave, by love and hope set free,

G C Am Em D G Am Em

but as the Three, in love and hope, made room with-in their dance.  
 when fear con - fines the dance in death, God rolls a - way the stone.  
 go tell the world of weight and woe that we are free to move!  
 to shape in song this joy, this life: the dance of Trin - i - ty.

# We Are One in the Spirit

## They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Capo 1: (Em)

(Bm) (Em)

Fm

Cm

Fm



1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;  
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;

(Am)

(Em)

B<sup>b</sup>m

Fm



we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,  
 we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,

(Am)

(Em)

B<sup>b</sup>m

Fm



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:  
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:

*Refrain*

(C)

(Em)

D<sup>b</sup>

Fm



And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our

(Am)

(Em)

(Am)

(Bm)

(Em) (Am/E) (Em)

B<sup>b</sup>m

Fm

B<sup>b</sup>m

Cm

Fm B<sup>b</sup>m/F Fm



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.