



September 10, 2023

Backpack Blessing




Bethany Reformed Church of Albany & The First Church in Albany are partnering to make sure you start your school year out right. We want you to know that you are loved and that your church family will be praying for you!

Bring your backpack with you to church on **September 10th** and we will celebrate this new beginning and bless your backpacks with a brief, but joyous prayer!


(Adults, we would not leave you out.)

Bring your workbag, briefcase, hobby bag and such. We want to bless them too.

We will also give you a special tag for your bag so that each time you look at that tag, you will be reminded that you are part of the family of Jesus and we love you!



We will see you Sunday,
September 10 at 10am
at



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



BETHANY
REFORMED CHURCH | ALBANY, NY

760 New Scotland Ave.
Albany NY 12208
518-482-7998
bethanyrc.org

Prayers, Joys & Concerns

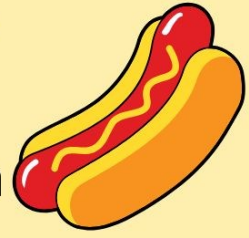
Thanks to share: Karen Van Epps thanks everyone who reached with prayers and offerings of support after her brother's recent passing.

- Doug Plummer, friend of the Bradley family, as he begins treatment for health concerns
- Becky Gardner
- Virginia Giguere and family as they mourn the passing of her brother Jason Miller in June.
- Sam, son of Barb and Dave Andrews, recovering from surgery
- Carol LaBatte
- Sharnelle Jones
- Joeanna Brown
- Norma McClement
- Norma Jean Ballou
- For Sara Bonam-Welge and family
- Deborah Paris, daughter of Betty Pierce
- Sam, cousin of Barb Andrews
- For Barb and Dave Andrews as they take on the role of caretakers
- Ken Lucas, friend of Philip Labatte
- Kokese Ballou
- For Jennifer Recene Gallagher
- 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
- For our Maui Family (Ohana) as they recover from the recent wildfires.
- 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.

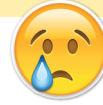




Join us each Thursday,
from 11:30am-1:00pm
in Clee Park
for a free Hot Dog lunch



Please Share and Come to Help Out!



This Thursday will be the last Hot Dog Thursday of the Summer! It's been a great season in spite of some weather and Canadian Wildfire Smoke challenges. This remains a very popular event that allows us to meet and greet all of our neighbors in a fun and relational way. The diversity of guests...from our homeless friends, to neighbors who live in the many apartments surrounding us, to folks who work downtown during the week...really gives us a picture of the family that Christ envisioned us to be part of.

A special thanks to all our devoted volunteers who faithfully served in all types of weather. You folks are the **best**! You have served our neighbors well. God is surely pleased. Please consider joining this great group of volunteers next summer. It just may be the most heartwarming 3 hours of your week!

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

End of

SUMMER EVENTS CALENDAR



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





FOCUS
CHURCHES OF ALBANY



2023 FOCUS SUMMER WORSHIP

SEPT
03

**Emmanuel Baptist Church at
10:00 a.m.**

Both In-Person and Online

To join online via Zoom, please visit:
[emmanuelalbany.net](https://www.emmanuelalbany.net)



**When joining online, please bring your own
communion elements. All are welcome!**

www.focuschurches.net



**BREAKING
NEWS**

**REPORTS SEEM TO CONFIRM
THAT WE ARE ABOUT A
WEEK AWAY FROM AND
UPDATED ADDRESS
DIRECTORY. STAY TUNED
FOR THE RELEASE DATE.**