

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.



The banner features a pink and purple gradient background with a white outline of a church building on the left. To the right of the building, the word "FOCUS" is written in large, bold, black letters, with "CHURCHES OF ALBANY" in smaller black letters below it. Further to the right, the text "FOCUS CHURCHES OF ALBANY'S" is written in white, followed by "JOINT SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES" in large, bold, white letters.



The box has a blue background. On the left, a white square contains the text "SEPT. 4" in large blue letters and "@ 10 AM" in smaller blue letters below it. To the right of the white square, the text "WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters. Below that, "BOTH IN-PERSON AND ONLINE" is written in white, uppercase letters. At the bottom, "Join online via Zoom at wpcalbany.org" is written in a smaller white font.

***When joining online, please provide your own communion elements
ALL ARE WELCOME!***

There will be a drive-in service at The First Church in Albany on September 4 at 10am. It will be our last drive-in service of the season.

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost
August 28, 2022

Tune in to 87.9FM on your car radio

Prelude

“Fairest Lord Jesus”
Margaret Randall, keyboardist

V. Labenske

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. *Psalm 118:24*

Call to Worship *Psalm 112*

Leader: Praise the Lord!

Happy are those who fear the Lord,
who greatly delight in his commandments.

**People: Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

Leader: Wealth and riches are in their houses,
and their righteousness endures forever.

**People: They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.**

Leader: It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
who conduct their affairs with justice.

**People: For the righteous will never be moved;
they will be remembered forever.**

Leader: They are not afraid of evil tidings;
their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.

**People: Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid;
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.**

Leader: They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor; their
righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honor.

**People: The wicked see it and are angry;
they gnash their teeth and melt away;
the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.**

*Opening Hymn

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

WESTMINSTER ABBEY 8.7.8.7.8.7

7th century, Latin

Trans. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1861, 1972

Henry Purcell (1659–1695), adap.



1. Christ is made the sure foun-da-tion, Christ the head and cor - ner - stone,
2. To this tem - ple, where we call You, Come, O Lord of Hosts, to - day;
3. Here be-stow on all Your ser-vants What they ask of You to gain,
4. Laud and hon - or to the Fa-ther, Laud and hon - or to the Son,



Cho - sen of the Lord and pre-cious, Bind - ing all the church in one;
With Your wont-ed lov - ing-kind-ness Hear Your peo - ple as they pray,
What they gain from You for - ev - er With the bless-ed to re - tain,
Laud and hon - or to the Spir - it, Ev - er three and ev - er one;



Ho - ly Zi - on's help for - ev - er, And our con - fi - dence a - lone.
And Your full - est ben - e - dic-tion Shed with-in its walls al - way.
And here - af - ter in Your glo - ry Ev - er-more with You to reign.
One in might and one in glo - ry While un-end - ing a - ges run.



Prayer of Confession

Most gracious Lord, we come before you confessing our shortcomings. Please forgive us for the times we seek our own recognition above everything and everyone else. There are times when we seek to be liked, thanked, admired, appreciated, recognized, and praised more than we seek your direction. Help us to value humility and justice for all.

Assurance of Pardon Psalm 112:1-3

Happy are those who fear the Lord, who greatly delight in his commandments. Their descendants will be might in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever.

*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

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me. Mold me. Fill me. Use me. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me!

Sermon Text

Luke 14:1-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. Just then, in front of him, there was a man who had edema. And Jesus asked the experts in the law and Pharisees, “Is it lawful to cure people on the Sabbath or not?” But they were silent. So Jesus took him and healed him and sent him away. Then he said to them, “If one of you has a child or an ox that has fallen into a well, will you not immediately pull it out on a Sabbath day?” And they could not reply to this.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you have been invited by your host, and the host who invited both of you

Bring its bud to glo-rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour-age,
 Free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour-age,
 Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour-age,
 Pledged to set all cap-tives free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour-age,

For the fac - ing of this hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.
 For the liv - ing of these days, For the liv - ing of these days.
 Lest we miss Thy king-dom's goal, Lest we miss Thy king-dom's goal.
 That we fail not them nor Thee! That we fail not them nor Thee!

Text: Used by permission of Elinor Fosdick Downs.

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

Margaret Randall, keyboardist & Doug Persons, trumpet

Worship Leadership:

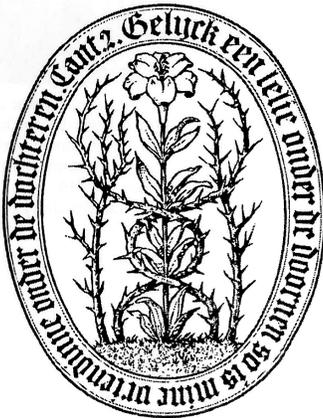
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Keyboardist: Margaret Randall

Musician: Doug Persons, Trumpet

Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr

*Thank you for worshipping with us today!
You all are invited to remain with us in Clee Park for our Lemonade Lull.*



Happy 380th Birthday, First Church! From Albany's First Church and Its Role in the Growth of the City, by R. Alexander. "*Domine Megapolensis preached his first sermon in the colony on Sunday, August 17, 1642.*"...and the rest, as they say, is history.

Our August Milestone...The First Church in Albany celebrates its 380th Anniversary this week. We will be celebrating that milestone on Reformation Sunday, October 30th.

Stay tuned for details!!!

Prayer Concerns

- Norma Jean Ballou
- The Reohr Family
- Joanne Snover, as she moves to a new home in a new city
- Shirley Joosten
- Ronald Stockhoff
- Deb Anderson
- Joanne Farrell and John Patterson
- Jennifer Recene Gallagher, daughter of Joyce Recene
- Mia and Wim Westman
- Donna Jones
- Charnelle Jones
- John Utley, brother of Judith Utley Suess
- Barbara W., dear friend of Barb & Dave Andrews and Donna Jones
- Steve Hoffman
- Harold Bushnell
- Frank Jeffries (son of Norma McClement)
- Norma McClement
- Ralph McNeil, brother of Norma Jean Ballou
- Mary Ann Selmer
- Samuel, son of Barb Andrews
- 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
- Alex Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Neil Keen
- Fran Carr Morton
- Cheryl Gowie
- Ada Harris
- Gwen, friend of Becky Gardner
- Charles Welge
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Clergy, staff and leaders of the First Church in Albany
- Prayers for this burden of gun violence and its aftermath. We pray that cooler heads will prevail in discussions and decisions, for management of the situation.
- 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



HOT DOG THURSDAY WITH CLEO

Our Summer Outreach to All of Our Neighbors

**Thanks to all who volunteered,
donated and prayed for this
wonderful summer ministry
to our neighbors!**

We'll see you next year!



Wizard's Wardrobe

WHERE READING IS MAGIC

Yes,
summer has just started
No,
it isn't too early to think about the Fall.

When school begins again, elementary-age students in Albany's South End could use your help.

The Wizard's Wardrobe, that does one-on-one tutoring, will be holding its initial 13-hour Fall Tutor Training on the Saturdays of September 17th and 24th.

Learn about the impact that poverty and systemic racism have on young students.

Become prepared to strengthen their ability to read and support them with your relationship of caring. For more information, click the button below or speak with Program Director Debbie Fagans at (518) 776-0664.



The First Church in Albany is committed to the city and people of Albany NY.

This feeding ministry is part of our commitment.

Pantry Hours

**Monday and
Wednesday
9am - 11:30am**

The pantry entrance is on Orange St.

518-463-4449

www.firstchurchinalbany.org

The First Church in Albany

110 North Pearl St.

Albany NY 12207

Rev. John Paarlberg asked us to share this invite. Joshua Vis, church engagement facilitator for Israel/Palestine for the RCA will be at the screening. His name may be familiar to us as First Church has been a supporter of his ministry.



The Law and the Prophets

A documentary film on the Israeli occupation of Palestine

Saturday, September 10, 2 p.m., at the Madison Theatre

1036 Madison Ave, Albany, NY

Since June 1967, Israel has controlled, in one way or another, the lives of the Palestinians living in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Over the course of fifty years, this control has become more sophisticated, more systematic, and harder to recognize.

The Law and the Prophets is a feature documentary that amplifies the voices of the brave, determined individuals, both Palestinian and Israeli, who are trying to expose the destructive, unjust, and sometimes invisible ways in which Israel exploits and oppresses Palestinians. Their voices deserve to be heard.

The director, Joshua Vis, will be present for a time of Q. & A following the screening. Joshua is a Church Engagement Facilitator for Israel/Palestine for the Reformed Church in America. He leads immersion tours to Israel/Palestine to deepen participants' engagement with scripture and with the people who are living under the occupation.

