

September 18, 2022 10am Worship Service

The First Church in Albany

Welcomes you



Artwork: Teaching Parables by
Jorge Cocco Santángelo



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.

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost **September 18, 2022**

** = rise in body or in spirit*

Prelude Lectionary Reflection *Written by Rev. Trey Tirpak*

Though our joy is gone
You desire all to be saved
You will hear our cry

Prelude LOBE DEN HERREN Johann Gottfried Walther

Tolling of Bell *The sound of bells will be heard when entering the Holy Place...*
Exodus 28

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 *Based on Psalm 113*

Leader: Praise the Lord!

People: Praise the name of the Lord!

Leader: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

People: Let the name of the Lord be praised.

Leader: Let us worship this God who is faithful and steadfast.

People: Let all that is within me praise God's holy name!

***Opening Hymn**

“Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

#482 pew hymnal

Prayer of Confession *Based on Jeremiah 8:18-9:1*

God who hears our cries, we lift them to you now, with the words of the Prophet Jeremiah: “My joy is gone, grief is upon me, and my heart is sick.” We pray that you have mercy on those we have been hurt by our actions or inactions. We pray that you have mercy on us who have been hurt by the world and our own actions. Hear our prayers for healing, O Lord.

Time of Silence & Reflection

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law

It is good for us to cry out to God for God hears our cries. In Exodus 3, God said to the people of Israel who were oppressed in Egypt: “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them.” Friends, in Jesus Christ, God has done the same for all humanity, for as Timothy writes, “God our Savior desires everyone to be saved.” Live in the good news that God hears our cries and God saves.

***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

Finite and Infinite One, reveal to us what you want us to realize today, and give us the power to live in a new way. Amen.

Scripture Reading Jeremiah 8:18-9:1, pg. 619 in pew bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Text

Luke 16:1-13 *Common English Translation*

Jesus also said to the disciples, "A certain rich man heard that his household manager was wasting his estate. He called the manager in and said to him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give me a report of your administration because you can no longer serve as my manager.'

The household manager said to himself, What will I do now that my master is firing me as his manager? I'm not strong enough to dig and too proud to beg. I know what I'll do so that, when I am removed from my management position, people will welcome me into their homes.

One by one, the manager sent for each person who owed his master money. He said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' The first replied, 'Nine hundred gallons of olive oil.' The manager said to him, 'Take your contract, sit down quickly, and write four hundred fifty gallons.' Then the manager said to another, 'How much do you owe?' He said, 'One thousand bushels of wheat.' He said, 'Take your contract and write eight hundred.'

The master commended the dishonest manager because he acted cleverly.

People who belong to this world are more clever in dealing with their peers than are people who belong to the light. I tell you, use worldly wealth to make friends for yourselves so that when it's gone, you will be welcomed into the eternal homes.

Whoever is faithful with little is also faithful with much, and the one who is dishonest with little is also dishonest with much. If you haven't been faithful with worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? If you haven't been faithful with someone else's property, who will give you your own? No household servant can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be loyal to the one and have contempt for the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon Finite and Infinite Games

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

*Hymn of Response **The House of Faith**

1 The house of faith has man - y rooms where we have
2 We dare not lim - it God's do - main to what our
3 The way to God is not es - cape, though truth does
4 Yet still we seek at jour - ney's end the last and

nev - er been; there is more space with -
creeds de - clare, or shrink from pro - bing
make us free: the life of chos - en
sweet - est grace: the gift of room to

in God's scope than we have ev - er seen.
things un - known lest God should not be there.
ser - vant - hood is per - fect lib - er - ty.
turn a - round and know God face to face.

Tithes & Offering: *Please fill out a welcome card and place it in the offering plate*

Offertory **“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”** setting Roy L. Bedfield Jr.

***Doxology #592**

**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.**



Affirmation & Blessing of the Prayer Shawls

Leader 1: God of love and comfort, we know that you are always present in our lives and that your love transcends all tragedy, illness, and pain. We know that you are in all things, with us in our joys and our sorrows. We ask you, O God, to bless these shawls, those who will be wrapped in them, and the hands that make them.

Leader 2: In the words of Psalm 90:17 “Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and confirm for us the work of our hands.”

People: God, we ask for your blessing upon these shawls. May they be a touchstone to a safe haven, a sacred place of security, a place of well-being, a place where your Presence is known.

Leader 2: These shawls were made to bring assurance to those who feel afraid, sad, alone, or uncertain.

Leader 1: May all who receive these know the intricate love and care interwoven in these shawls, a love that mirrors the care that God gives to all people.

Leader 2: These shawls were made to remind the recipient that they are part of this community.

People: May those who receive these shawls feel touched by our love, moved by our guidance, and held up by our support.

Leader 2: These shawls were made to bring peace to those in need of prayer.

Leader 1: May they feel the warm embrace of the Holy Spirit as they wrap themselves within these shawls.

People: O Holy Spirit may all who wear and hold these shawls be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love. Thank you for your blessing. In Jesus’ name, we pray. 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.

*Sending Hymn

O Sing to the Lord

1. O sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song. Oh,
2. For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders. For
PLAY 3. So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets, So
4. Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spi - rit. Oh,
PLAY 5. For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! For
5
sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song. Oh, sing to the
God is the Lord, and he has done won - ders. For God is the
dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets. So dance for our
shout to our God, who gave us the Spi - rit. Oh, shout to our
10
Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! For Je - sus is
Lord, oh, sing God a new song. Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our
Lord, and he has done won - ders. Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our
God and blow all the trum - pets, and sing to our God, and sing to our
God, who gave us the Spi - rit. Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our
16
Lord! A - men - Al - le - lu - ia! Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our
God.
God.
God.
God.
God.

***Charge & Blessing**

Postlude: Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ setting John Carter

Preacher: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Liturgist: Cameron Carley

Organist: Iteke Prins

Musicians: Doug Persons, Glenn Claydon

Prayer Concerns

- Betty Pierce
- Jay Reohr
- Mary Bon and family
- Shirley Joosten
- Ronald Stockhoff
- Jennifer Recene Gallagher, daughter of Joyce Recene
- Mia and Wim Westman
- Barbara W., dear friend of Barb & Dave Andrews and Donna Jones
- Steve Hoffman
- Harold Bushnell
- Norma McClement
- 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
- Donna Schultz
- Jeff Curry
- Alex Bliss
- Fran Carr Morton
- Cheryl Gowie
- Ada Harris
- Gwen, friend of Becky Gardner
- 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

Volunteers Needed

Like every family, the church's strength comes from the faithful service and support of its members.



We need help with:

- **Sunday Door Greeters**
- **Food Pantry Volunteers**
- **Sunday Morning Youth & Arts Volunteers**

Benefit package includes , making new friends, fulfilling God's call for your life and the peace in knowing that you are sharing First Church with potential believers

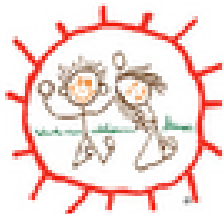
**Contact
Pastor
Mashona
ASAP**

**srpastor@firstchurchinalbany.org
518-463-4449**

www.firstchurchinalbany.org

Children & Worship

at The First Church in Albany



Children & Worship provides an age-appropriate way of being in worship for children ages 4-8. Based on Montessori principles, C&W continues to be one of the most effective ways to nurture children's faith and prepare them to worship with their entire congregation.

- 9/25 - Bible & Blessing: Students will receive a bible and blessing during the usual worship service.
- 10/2 - Family Orientation
- 10/9 - First Day of Children & Worship

For details, please contact Sara Bonam Welge at sbonam@nycap.rr.com

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER AT FIRST CHURCH

- Choir—Our beautiful Sanctuary warrants beautiful music! First Church is looking for singers to join our choir. Details are currently being worked out. Sign up! Contact organist Iteke Prins:

ihp65@nycap.rr.com

- New Members Class—for those looking to join First Church, Rev. Trey Tirpak is coordinating a new member's orientation for you! Please contact Rev. Trey:

treytirpak@gmail.com

- Home Communion—Part of



READERS' THEATRE EVENT

OCTOBER 3, 2022 7PM

Hope for Changing Times

ALICE GREEN

AUTHOR OF WE WHO BELIEVE IN FREEDOM
WILL BE OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER

CASEY SEILER

TMES UNION EDITOR WILL BE OUR EMCEE

OTHER PRESENTERS: PAUL GRONDAHL, NELL STOKES, JEAN-REMY MONNAY, HOLLY MCKENNA, "CHILDREN AT THE WELL"



DOORS OPEN AT 6:15. PROGRAM STARTS AT 7PM.



at **theREP**★

251 NORTH PEARL STREET
ALBANY, NY 12207



www.wizardswardrobe.org



The Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets once a month in the Powell Room. We knit or crochet our shawls while we check in with each other. Then we discuss who might need a shawl.

**We meet at 11:30am.,
every first Monday,
October through May!**

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



The Mary & Neil Fund

We entered a time of prayerful consideration and care upon hearing of Neil Keen's passing. We were led to the following...

This week, we continue to accept gifts marked for the Mary & Neil Fund. The intention of this fund is to provide Mary with bereavement support in light of Neil's passing.

It also is meant to honor Mary Bon, who retired last year, after nearly 40 years at First Church as Minister of Music. Unfortunately, pandemic protocols kept us from celebrating Mary's retirement in the traditional way, with a gathering, as we had hoped.

If you wish to donate to this fund, please mark your check or envelope with "The Mary & Neil Fund FCIA" and place in the collection plate or mail to the church.



Please join us as we keep Mary and all of Neil's friends and family in our prayers.

The First Church in Albany, 110 N. Pearl St., Albany NY 12207



This Week at the First Church in Albany

- Sunday 9.18 10am Indoor Worship at FCIA, also on Zoom followed by a special coffee hour to celebrate Shirley Bone
- Monday 9.19 9am Food Pantry
- Tuesday 9.20 12pm Adult Scripture Study
6pm Consistory Meeting
- Wednesday 9.21 9am Food Pantry
12pm AA Meeting
12pm Centering Prayer
12:30pm Weathervanes

Upcoming Events

- Thursday 10.6 7pm A Night of Worship, preceded by a potluck gathering at 6pm

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

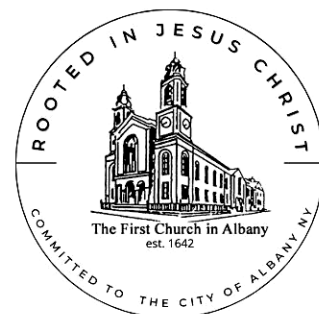
CALENDAR UPDATES

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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