

The First Church in Albany

January 25, 2026, 10am

*“...that you be knit together in the same mind
and the same purpose.”*

The First Church in Albany (RCA)

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.

Prelude

“God Is Truly with Us “

arr. Roberta Bitgood

Tolling of Bell

Welcome, Announcement, & Blessing

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Grace to you and peace from God our Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Call to Worship

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: The light shines in Galilee and in our midst.

Leader: The Lord is our light and our salvation.

People: Whom shall we fear?

Leader: Jesus calls, “Follow me.”

People: We come to walk in the light of Christ.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who calls us out of darkness.

All: Let us follow Christ, the light of the world.

***Opening Hymn**

“For the Beauty of the Earth” #14 GTG

*DIX
See p. 6*

Call to Confession:

Let us pause here to confess the sins that have kept us from recognizing and enjoying God's presence.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, when despair and suffering overwhelm us, we cry out for you and feel abandoned. We doubt your presence and your promises. We believe you have turned away from us in anger. We ask why you have forsaken us. In these moments, strengthen us in faith and fill our hearts with courage. We believe, God. Help our unbelief. Amen

Time of silence and reflection

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law

With everlasting love I will have compassion on you, says the Lord, your Redeemer. I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins. Return to me, for I have redeemed you. -Isaiah 54:8; 43:25; 44:22

Gloria Patri

The image shows a musical score for the Gloria Patri, consisting of four staves. The top two staves are for the vocal line, and the bottom two are for the piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A - men, a - men." The score includes a measure rest in the vocal line at the beginning of the second line.

*Passing the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us greet one another with Christ's peace.

(Don't forget to wave to those worshiping from home!)

Children's Message & Blessing

Prayer for Illumination

O God, you spoke your word and revealed your good news in Jesus, the Christ. Fill all creation with that word again, so that by proclaiming your joyful promises to all nations and singing of your glorious hope to all peoples, we may become one living body, your incarnate presence on the earth. Amen.

Scripture Reading Psalm 27:1, 4-9

The LORD is my light and my
salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing I asked of the LORD;
this I seek:
to live in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD,
and to inquire in his temple.
For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover
of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.
Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around
me, and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;

I will sing and make melody to the
LORD.

Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer
me!

“Come,” my heart says, “seek his
face!”

Your face, LORD, do I seek.

Do not hide your face from me.
Do not turn your servant away in
anger, you who have been my
help.

Do not cast me off; do not forsake
me,

O God of my salvation!

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Text 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been made clear to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do

Offertory

“Aria”

Emma Lou Diemer

***Doxology #592 in pew hymnal**

**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.**

***Offertory Prayer**

God is the giver of every good gift, pouring out grace upon grace on us and our world. We give back a portion of those gifts in humility and thanksgiving. Amen.

Prayers of the People

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**

“The Church’s One Foundation” 321 GTG

AURELIA
See p. 8

***Charge & Blessing**

Postlude

“Marching to Zion”

Joyce Jones

Note: Join us in Zimmerman Hall after worship for Coffee Hour!

Today’s Hymns are found in the Glory to God Hymnal.

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mark Mast Liturgist: Elder Peter Pagerey Organist: Gloria Norton	Worship Techs: Joshua Bliss, Stephen Reohr CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689
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For the Beauty of the Earth 14

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly given;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

Refrain

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of this text has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.

TEXT: Follitt Sandford Pierpoint, 1864, alt.

MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; abr. William Henry Monk, 1861; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

DIX

7.7.7.7.7.7

We Are One in the Spirit 300

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;
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

(Am) (Em)
 B^bm 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,
 we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

(Am) (Em)
 B^bm 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:
 and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain (C) (Em)
 D^b Fm

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

(Am) (Em) (Am) (Bm) (Em) (Am/E) (Em)
 B^bm Fm B^bm Cm Fm B^bm/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.

The Church's One Foundation 321

1 The chur-ch's one foun-da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord.
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op-pressed,
 4 Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth has un - ion with God, the Three in One,

She is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
 by schis - ms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis-tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more:
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won:

From heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride.
 One ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we,

With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
 And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

This hymn was one of twelve written by an English curate to affirm the articles of the Apostles' Creed with biblical allusions such as 1 Corinthians 3:11 here. Though not created for this text, the tune was joined to it in 1868, and the two have been inseparable ever since.

Prayer LIST

as of 1.13.26



Indicates a new request

Current Joys & Concerns

- For Holly Allen, recently hospitalized with a serious illness and is now home recovering
- Praise for a successful, healing procedure for our office manager, Colleen
- For Jim Gallagher, son-in-law of Joyce Recene
- For Jill Busman, continuing medical treatment, and for her husband, Kent, as he supports her

GiveThanks

- For the volunteers who helped to cover the office last week
- For our coming together in worship, and the opportunity to praise God
- The Church of today, and the Church of the future.

Ongoing Needs

- Olivia Gaydushek
- Mia Westman
- For our broken world, may the example of Jesus Christ lead us all to choose our words and actions from hearts of love and justice
- For the food insecure wrestling with loss of benefits, and for pantries and food banks as they try to fill the needs
- For all those impacted by mass-shooting incidents, for peace and comfort

(To add an item to the prayer chain, contact the minister, the office or a member of consistory.)

Note: Prayer concerns will be kept on the list for 4 Sundays. Please let the office or a member of Consistory know if a concern needs to be kept on after that.

SOUP & SANDWICHES

Wednesday

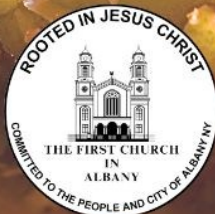
11:30am - 1pm

Clee Park

FREE

Join us in the park for lunch. Fresh homemade soup and sandwiches. Free to all. Caring for our neighbors.

If you would like to volunteer to serve on a Wednesday, please contact office@firstchurchinalbany.org



#firstchurchinmotion

The First Church in Albany

firstchurchinalbany.org



1. Worship

Sunday at 10am in our Sanctuary
Also live streamed on our
YouTube channel

(Occasional Services will be
held in the Chapel)

2 Centering Prayer

Wednesday at Noon in our Powell Room



3 Food Pantry

Tuesday and Thursday from
9am - 11:30am
Located at our Orange St.
door

We are a Platinum Level
pantry with the Food
Pantries of the Capital
District.



4 Prayer Shawls

1st Tuesday of the month
@ 11:30am
Located in the Powell Rm.

Members work on prayer shawls to
be shared with those dealing with
health issues, those grieving,
or those celebrating an event like a
birth or wedding.



5 Soup & Sandwiches in Clee Park

Wednesday from 11:30am - 1pm in Clee Park
We love to share a meal with all our neighbors. Everyone
is welcome and there is no charge! Delicious homemade
soup and classic P B & J sandwiches. We also share fruit,
treats and when available, cold weather gear like gloves
and hats. Join us!



6 FirstKIDS

Sunday during worship in the 2nd Floor Studio Room (except for
Communion Sundays). The format is student artists learning about
the church's liturgical calendar, the stories of the bible that the
calendar is based on, and how to communicate with followers who
worship visually.








cutie be mine love u

February 2026



SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

<p>MARCH 2026</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30 31</p>	 <p>Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18</p>		 <p>2026 Winter Olympics Friday, February 6 through Saturday, February 22</p>				
<p>1</p> <p>FOCUS CHURCHES OF ALBANY</p> <p>Combined Winter Worship Service at Westminster Presbt. 10am</p> <p>No service at FCIA</p>	<p>2</p> <p>WiFi Project begins</p>  <p>Groucho Day</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>Pantry 9am</p>  <p>Prayer Shawl Mtg 11:30am</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am</p>  <p>Centering Prayer 12pm</p>  <p>AA 12pm</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>Pantry 9am</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>10am</p>  <p>Castle Island Bilingual Montessori Play 5pm</p>	
<p>8</p>  <p>Indoor Worship 10am</p>  <p>Communion Sunday</p>  <p>Coffee Hour</p>  <p>Castle Island Bilingual Montessori Play 2pm</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>  <p>Pantry 9am</p>	<p>11</p>  <p>Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am</p>  <p>Centering Prayer 12pm</p>  <p>Weather vanes 12:30pm</p>  <p>AA 12pm</p>	<p>12</p>  <p>Pantry 9am</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>10am</p>  <p>Happy Valentine's Day</p>	
<p>15</p>  <p>Indoor Worship 10am</p>  <p>Coffee Hour</p>	<p>16</p>  <p>PRESIDENT'S DAY</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>Pantry 9am</p> <p>Mardi Gras</p>	<p>18</p>  <p>Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am</p>  <p>AA 12pm</p> <p>Ash Wednesday</p>	<p>19</p>  <p>Pantry 9am</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>  <p>10am</p>	
<p>22</p>  <p>Indoor Worship 10am</p>  <p>Coffee Hour</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>Pantry 9am</p>	<p>25</p>  <p>Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am</p>  <p>Centering Prayer 12pm</p>  <p>AA 12pm</p>	<p>26</p>  <p>Pantry 9am</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>  <p>10am</p>	

Key:




Indoor
Worship
10am



Communion
Sunday



Coffee
Hour



Pantry
9am



Centering
Prayer 12pm



Soup &
Sandwiches



AA
12pm



First
KIDS









BIBLE
Zoom
Study
1pm



Information as of 1.21.26. Calendar subject to updates.

**CALENDAR
OF EVENTS**
THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

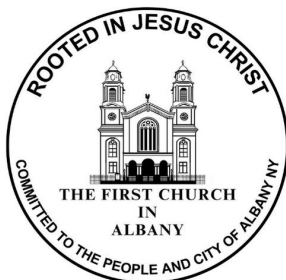
**January &
FEBRUARY
2026**

-  **TUE 27** **PANTRY**  **9AM**
-  **WED 28** **SOUP & SANDWICHES** **11:30AM**
IN CLEE PARK
- CENTERING PRAYER** **NOON**
IN THE POWELL RM
- AA MEETING** **NOON**
IN THE PARLOR
-  **THU 29** **PANTRY**  **9AM**
-  **SAT 31** **KEYS FOR KIDS** **10AM**

FEBRUARY

-  **SUN 1** **FOCUS COMBINED WINTER SERVICE** **10AM**
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
THERE WILL NOT BE A SERVICE AT FCIA.

FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG



The First Church in Albany

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www.firstchurchinalbany.org