

## *Alternative Lifestyle: Boundaries*

### **The First Church in Albany**

February 22, 2026, 10am

#### **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.*

#### **First Sunday of Lent**

##### **Prelude**

*"Dirge"* Anonymous, Arr. Alfred Fedak (1953)  
*"O Man, Bewail Thy Grievous Sin"*  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

##### **Tolling of Bell**

##### **Welcome, Announcement, & Blessing**

##### **Lenten Preparation**

##### **Call to Worship Based on Psalm 32**

Leader: Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is covered.

**People: They are happy for the Lord declares them "not guilty" and there is no deception in their hearts.**

Leader: Let us worship and rejoice in the One who is our hiding place and our refuge in times of trouble.

**\*Opening Hymn "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" #475**

NETTELTON  
See p. 6

## Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Most merciful God, whose Son Jesus Christ was tempted in every way, yet without sin, we confess before you that we have sinned; we have hungered after that which does not satisfy; we have compromised with evil; we have doubted your power to protect us. Forgive our lack of faith; have mercy on our weakness. Restore in us such love and trust that we may walk in your ways and delight in doing your will.

*Time of silence and reflection*

## Assurance of Pardon

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us. *-Psalm 103:8, 10-12*

## Gloria Patri

The musical score for 'Gloria Patri' is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves. The top two staves are for the vocal line, and the bottom two are for the piano accompaniment. 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.'

## \*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 worshipping from home!)

## Children's Message & Blessing

## Prayer for Illumination

God of mercy, your word was the sure defense of Jesus in his time of testing. Minister to us in the wilderness of our temptation, that we who have been set free from sin by Christ may serve you well into life everlasting. Amen.

## Sermon Text Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you,  
and they will lift you up in their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

**People: Praise to you, O Christ!**

**Sermon title** "Alternative Lifestyle: Boundaries" Rev. Dr. Mark Mast

**A Prayer of Blessing on the Word**

**Hymn of Response** "Lord Who Throughout these Forty Days" #166

ST. FLAVION

See p. 7



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



Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mark Mast  
Liturgist: Deacon Deborah Anderson  
Organist: Alfred Fedak

Worship Techs: Joshua Bliss,  
Stephen Reohr  
CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689

# Prayer LIST


as of 2.3.26

 Indicates a new request

## Current Joys & Concerns

- For all those impacted by the cold and winter weather.
- For Holly Allen, recently hospitalized with a serious illness and is now home recovering
- 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 Food Pantries of the Capital District and their efforts in partnership with many pantries like ours, to provide delivery for those who are not able to physically get to their pantry.
- For our coming together in worship, and the to praise God
- The Church of today, and the Church of the future.

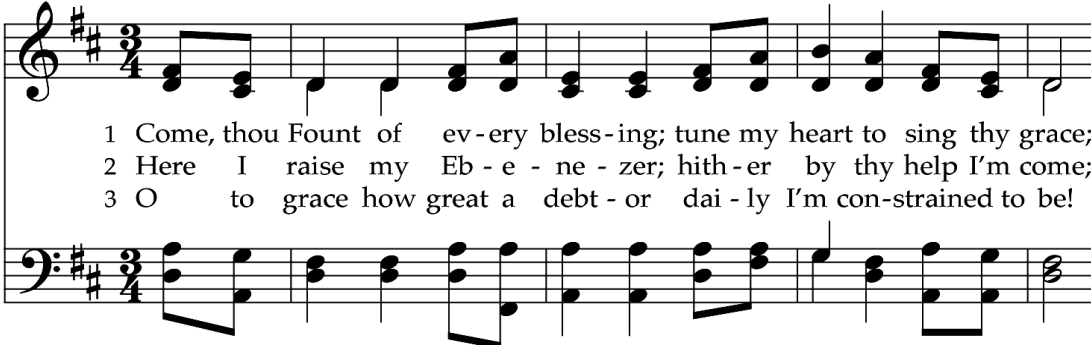
## Ongoing Needs

- 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.

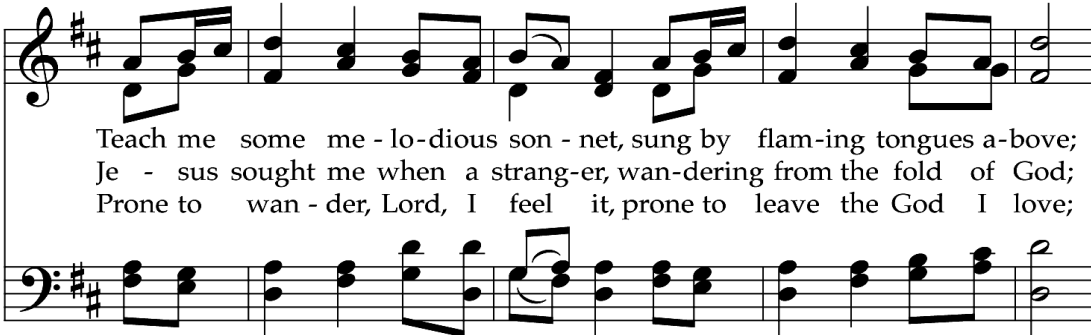
## Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475



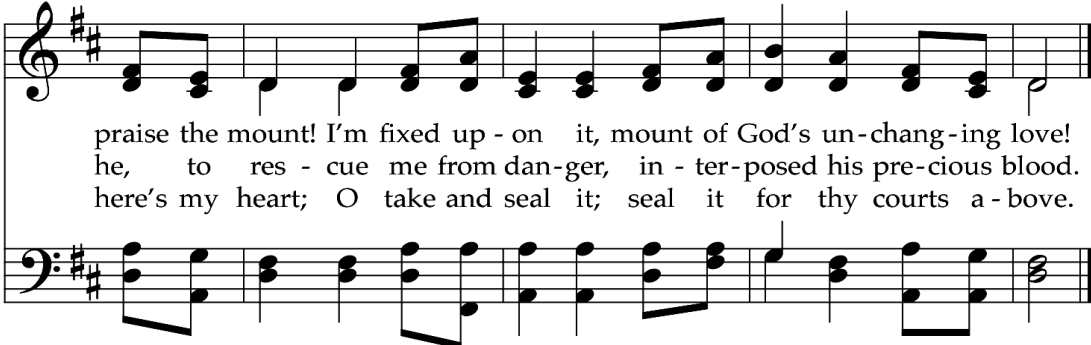
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
 2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;  
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.  
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.  
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;  
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;  
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!  
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.  
 here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.

# Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days 166

1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and  
 2 As you with Sa - tan did con - tend and did the vic - tory  
 3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas - sion -  
 4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fer - ing shall be

pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.  
 win, O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con - quer sin.  
 tide, yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.  
 past, an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.

Like many of this author's hymns, this text was written primarily for children but works equally well in reminding adults how Lent connects us with Christ's temptation in the wilderness and prepares us for Easter. The 16th-century English psalm tune provides sturdy support.

TEXT: Claudia F. I. Hernaman, 1873, alt.  
 MUSIC: Day's *Psalter*, 1562

ST. FLAVIAN  
 CM

# 275 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul-wark nev - er  
2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be  
3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -  
4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -

fail - ing. Our help - er he, a - mid the flood of  
los - ing, were not the right man on our side, the  
do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his  
bid - eth. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours through

mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth  
man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ  
truth to tri - umph through us. The Prince of Dark - ness grim, we  
him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, this

seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and  
Je - sus, it is he. Lord Sab - a - oth his name, from  
trem - ble not for him. His rage we can en - dure, for  
mor - tal life al - so. The bod - y they may kill; God's


armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.  
 age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.  
 lo, his doom is sure. One lit - tle word shall fell him.  
 truth a - bid - eth still. His king - dom is for - ev - er.

Long before Isaac Watts began to Christianize the Psalms, Martin Luther had already done so when he created the text and tune for this, his most famous hymn, which is based on Psalm 46. Luther encouraged metrical versions of psalms as well as chanted psalms and new hymns.

TEXT: Martin Luther, 1529; trans. Frederick Henry Hedge, 1852  
 MUSIC: Martin Luther, 1529, alt.

EIN' FESTE BURG  
 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.7

**CELEBRATION OF LIFE**  
**IAN DAVID LEET**  
**April 11, 2026**  
 at  
 Emmanuel Baptist Church  
 Visit with the family at 10am  
 Service begins at 11am  
 Luncheon to follow



Ian was an active member of First Church for almost six decades. He was also active in the ministries of Emmanuel, where his wife, Edith, is a member. The service will be conducted by Reverend Trey Tirpak, former pastor at First Church, and Reverend Kathy Donley, pastor of Emmanuel. Visiting with the family will begin at 10 am. The worship service will begin at 11 am, and a luncheon at the church will follow. Since Ian willed his body to the Albany Medical Center Anatomical Gift Program, there will be no interment.

Singers are invited to join the Emmanuel choir to sing "Greater Love Hath No One" by John Ireland and "I Will Not Leave You Comfortless" by Everett Titcomb. Please contact Michael Clement at 518-377-0930 if you are interested. Help is also needed for the luncheon, including set up, clean up, preparation of food, and serving. If you would like to work on that, please contact Ellen Corcoran at 518-527-9569 or Edith Leet at 518-265-0551 or [elet100@gmail.com](mailto:elet100@gmail.com). Also, the family is asking for contributions to a memory book of stories and pictures of Ian. If you have a remembrance of Ian that you would like to share, please contact Edith Leet at 518-265-0551 or [elet100@gmail.com](mailto:elet100@gmail.com).

A LINK TO SIGN UP WITH FOR THE CHOIR CAN BE FOUND IN YOUR EBLAST, OR YOU CAN CONTACT THE OFFICE.

# We Need Coats

Throughout the cold weather months, we have been able to provide our pantry guests, as well as other neighbors in need, with warm winter coats, gloves, hats & scarves.

Right now, we are in need of new and gently used coats for men and women, primarily. We still have some cold weather ahead of us. If you can donate these items please bring them to the workroom near the church office.

Thank you for your generosity  
in Jesus' name.



The First Church in Albany

Wednesday at noon  
All are welcome!

Join us at *Centering*  
**PRAAYER** during LENT


110 North Pearl St. Albany NY 12207

cutie be mine love u



# February 2026




SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

<p><b>MARCH 2026</b></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><b>FOCUS</b> 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 &amp; Sandwiches 11:30am</p>  <p>Centering Prayer 12pm</p>  <p>WMA Mtg. 5:30pm</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>Consistory 5:30pm</p>	<p>11</p>  <p>Soup &amp; 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><b>PRESIDENT'S DAY</b></p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>Pantry 9am</p> <p>Mardi Gras</p>	<p>18</p>  <p>Soup &amp; 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 &amp; 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

**FEBRUARY  
& MARCH 2026**



**TUE  
24**

**PANTRY**



**9AM**

**WED  
25**

**SOUP & SANDWICHES**

**11:30AM**

**IN CLEE PARK**

**CENTERING PRAYER**

**POWELL ROOM**

**AA MEETING**

**IN THE PARLOR**

**NOON**

**THU  
26**

**PANTRY**



**9AM**

**SAT  
28**

**KEYS FOR KIDS**



**10AM**

**MARCH**



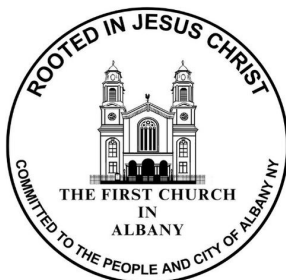
**WORSHIP** with Communion **SANCTUARY**

**10AM**

**COFFEE HOUR IN ZIMMERMAN HALL**

**10:45AM**

FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT [WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG](http://WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG)



**The First Church in Albany**

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

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