

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law based on Isaiah 49:15-16

“Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; **In Jesus Christ, the lost are found and the outcast are remembered.**”

***Passing the Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us rise and greet one another with the peace of Christ.

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

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon Text

Luke 15:1-7

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You O' Christ!

Sermon

Remembered

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of Response** *“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”*

See p. 7

Tithes & Offerings *If you would like to connect more with the life and mission of First Church, please fill out a Welcome Card found in your pew and place it in the offering as it goes by.*



Offertory Anthem *“Hear the Rejoicing in Heaven”* G. Grindal/J. Clemens
Choir

Hear the rejoicing in heaven! When those who are lost have been found, Joy, they're restored and forgiven. Rejoice! Hear the gladness resound!

Once a good shepherd went looking to find a poor lamb at great cost. One woman left all her cooking to search for a coin that was lost.

O what rejoicing in heaven when sinners like us have been found! All of our sins are forgiven; what joy for the that abounds!

Refrain: *Rejoicing Hear the gladness resound! Rejoicing!*

***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:

Good God, may these gifts be used to spread your love to others, bringing hope and healing to a world in need. Thank you for your love that never fails us. **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 *"What Wondrous Love Is This"* See p. 8

*Charge & Blessing

Postlude *"RESIGNATION"* arr. A. Jordan

Notes & Announcements:

- Join us in Zimmerman Hall after worship for refreshments and fellowship
- Join us for the 2nd Hour study at 11:15am after worship.

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Liturgist: Joanne Farrell

Organist: Iteke Prins

Vocalist and/or Specialist: First Church Choir

Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr

*CCLI License #463379;
One License #A-700689*

Prayer LIST as of 3.12.25

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

♥ **Indicates a new listing**

Current Concerns

- Joy for Rev. Trey's cousin Luke and wife Hayleigh, welcoming newborn, Mira Rose
- ♥ Peggy McMahon, leaving hospital after a procedure that went well
- Colleen Lais and Kathleen Claydon, for the passing of their friend Holly and for her husband Bob and adult children, Stephanie and Jason.
- Anita Tirpak, Rev. Trey's mother, with a recent diagnosis
- Vanessa, Rev. Trey's cousin, with a cancer diagnosis
- Peter Pagerey
- David Allan gives thanks for all the prayers as he has undergone treatment.

Ongoing Needs

- Olivia Gaydushek
- Wilma Sheffer
- Mia Westman
- Ministers, staff, and leaders of First Church as they move forward into our everchanging World
- For areas recovering from natural disasters like fires, earthquakes, etc.
- For war-torn places and area of conflict throughout the world
- The staff, volunteers, and guest of the CACC Overflow Shelter
- For those in our immediate area dealing with gun violence and its aftermath

Give Thanks

- Congratulations to the Vander Werker family on the birth of daughter Maizie.

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.

The First Church in Albany

Wednesday at noon
in our Sanctuary

All are welcome!

Join us at

Centering
PRAYER during LENT

Communion will be shared at this gathering

110 North Pearl St. Albany NY 12207

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want 801

(Psalm 23)

1 The Lord's my shep-herd, I'll not want; he makes me down to lie
 2 My soul he doth re-store a-gain, and me to walk doth make
 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear none ill,
 4 My ta-ble thou hast fur-nish-ed in pres-ence of my foes;
 5 Good-ness and mer-cy all my life shall sure-ly fol-low me,

in pas-tures green; he lead-eth me the qui-et wa-ters by.
 with-in the paths of righ-teous-ness, e'en for his own name's sake.
 for thou art with me; and thy rod and staff me com-fort still.
 my head thou dost with oil a-noint, and my cup o-ver-flows.
 and in God's house for-ev-er-more my dwell-ing place shall be.

This paraphrase of Psalm 23 comes from the so-called Scottish Psalter of 1650, actually produced by the Westminster Assembly and intended for use by all Presbyterians in the British Isles, in place of the Sternhold and Hopkins "Old Version" of the Church of England.

TEXT: Scottish Psalter, 1650; Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee, 2001;
 Spanish trans. Federico J. Pagura

CRIMOND
 CM

MUSIC: Jessie Seymour Irvine, 1872; harm. T. C. L. Pritchard, 1929
 Korean Trans. © 2001 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company)
 Spanish Trans. © Federico J. Pagura
 Music Harm. © 1929 Oxford University Press

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need 803

(Psalm 23)

1 My shep-herd will sup - ply my need; Je - ho - vah is his name.
 2 When I walk through the shades of death your pres-ence is my stay;
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;

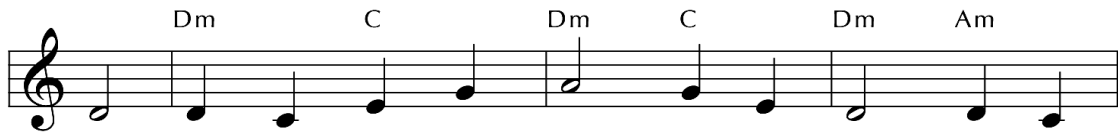
In pas - tures fresh he makes me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream.
 one word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
 O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.

He brings my wan - dering spir - it back when I for - sake his ways,
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
 There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;

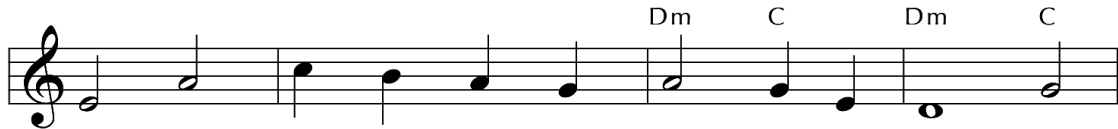
and leads me, for his mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
 my cup with bless - ings o - ver - flows; your oil a - noints my head.
 no more a strang - er, or a guest, but like a child at home.

The effectiveness of this beloved paraphrase of Psalm 23 owes much to the flowing shape note melody that serves as a "living stream" to carry the text, which in turn has been given a remarkable clarity and lightness through the poet's masterful use of single-syllable words.

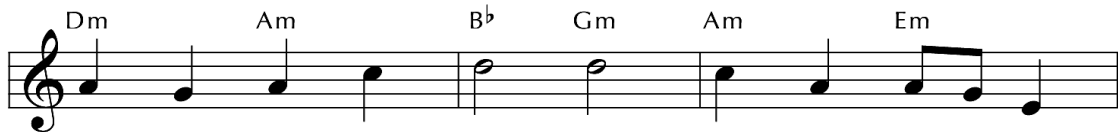
What Wondrous Love Is This 215



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing
 3 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, what won - drous love is this, O my soul! What
 down, when I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
 sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to
 on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this that caused the Lord of
 I was sink - ing down be - neath God's righ - teous
 God and to the Lamb who is the great I
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful



bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my
 frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul, for my
 AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will
 be, and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul!
 soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul!
 sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!
 on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

With its ballad-like repetitions before and after each stanza's central narrative lines, this meditative text needs performance in order to be effective. Its haunting melody proves the means of convincing us that the only adequate response to "wondrous love" is to "sing on."



Sunday
9:15am - 9:45am
in the Stephen James Chapel
at
The First Church in Albany
110 North Pearl St. Albany NY 12207

In Latin, these words mean “holy” or “spiritual reading”
It is a form of intentional reading of bible verses once practiced solely by monks.
At First, we would like to invite you to begin your new year praying with us for all the things that lie before us.

Bible Study

JOIN US ON ZOOM MEETING
www.firstchurchinalbany.org for link
WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30PM

A photograph of an open Bible with text visible on the pages, including 'THE EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE PHILIPPIANS' and 'CHAPTER I'.

Tuesday Afternoon Zoom Bible Study 1:00PM - 2:00PM

The Tuesday noon Bible study group meets each week. All are invited and will be most welcome. We will be following the common lectionary passages for the upcoming Sunday with Pastor Mashona. Links can be found on the website.

We are doing this on a week by week basis so anyone can drop into the Bible study at any time no need for a long-term commitment!





WORSHIP

with us

as we welcome

Rev. Micah L. McCreary, Ph. D
President of New Brunswick
Theological Seminary,
who will be our preacher



10AM

MAR

30th

2025

**Worship will be followed by a covered dish luncheon
in Zimmerman Hall**





The First Church in Albany (RCA)
110 North Pearl St., Albany NY 12207
www.firstchurchinalbany.org

See insert in this week's bulletin for Covered Dish RSVP info.

2025 March

Key:

-  Indoor Worship 10am
-  Communion Sunday
-  Coffee Hour
-  Pantry 9am
-  Centering Prayer 12pm
-  AA 12pm
-  First Kids
-  Choir
-  Zoom Study 1pm
-  Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Daylight Savings Begins Sunday, March 9 at 2am Spring Ahead 1 Hour				March is Women's History Month 	
2 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour Communion Sunday Pantry 9am 2nd HOUR	3 Leadership Mtg. 10am	4 Prayer Shawl Group 11:30am BIBLE Pantry 9am Zoom Study 1pm WMA 5pm Elder Mtg. 6pm Consistory 6:30pm	5 Ash Wednesday Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am Centering Prayer 12pm AA 12pm	6 Pantry 9am Choir 6:30pm	7	8 KEYS KIDS Recital April 12
9 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour Pantry 9am 2nd HOUR Centering Prayer 12pm	10	11 Pantry 9am BIBLE Zoom Study 1pm	12 Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am Centering Prayer 12pm Zoom Bible Study 7:30pm Crop Walk Committee Mtg. 4pm	13 Pantry 9am Choir 6:30pm	14	15 KEYS KIDS Recital April 12 Creating Healthier Congregation (Albany Classis) Delmar Reformed Church
16 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour Pantry 9am 2nd HOUR First Kids	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Pantry 9am BIBLE Zoom Study 1pm	19 Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am Centering Prayer 12pm Zoom Bible Study 7:30pm Weather-vanes 12:30pm	20 Spring Begins Pantry 9am Choir 6:30pm	21	22 KEYS KIDS Recital April 12
23 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour Pantry 9am 2nd HOUR Choir	24 Food Pantries Training Event 11:15am	25 Pantry 9am BIBLE Zoom Study 1pm FOCUS Board Mtg. 6:30pm	26 Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am Centering Prayer 12pm Zoom Bible Study 7:30pm	27 Pantry 9am Choir 6:30pm	28	29 KEYS KIDS Recital April 12
30 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour Pantry 9am 2nd HOUR Zoom Study 1pm Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am	31	 <p>New Brunswick Theological Seminary Seminar - Covenant Hall, 1st Reformed Schenectady 9am-12pm</p> <p>President Micah McCreary will be preaching at First Church Sunday, March 30 at 10am.</p>				

CACC Overflow Shelter Daily 6pm- 8am

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY



MARCH 2025

**MON
17**

*St. Patrick's
Day*



**TUE
18**

**PANTRY
ZOOM BIBLE STUDY**

**9AM
1PM**

**WED
19**

**SOUP & SANDWICHES
CENTERING PRAYER IN SANCTUARY
AA MEETING
WEATHERVANES 
ZOOM BIBLE STUDY**

**11:30AM
NOON
NOON
12:30PM
7:30PM**

**THU
20**

**PANTRY
CHOIR REHEARSAL**

**9AM
6:30PM**

**SAT
22**

KEYS FOR KIDS

10AM

**SUN
23**

**LECTIO DIVINA
WORSHIP FOLLOWED BY COFFEE HOUR
2ND HOUR STUDY
CROP WALK RALLY**

**9AM
10AM
11:15AM
3PM**

THE CACC OVERFLOW SHELTER IS NOW OPEN EACH EVENING 6PM - 8AM.

FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG



First Church in Albany

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

www.firstchurchinalbany.org

YOU ARE INVITED TO

Audrey's

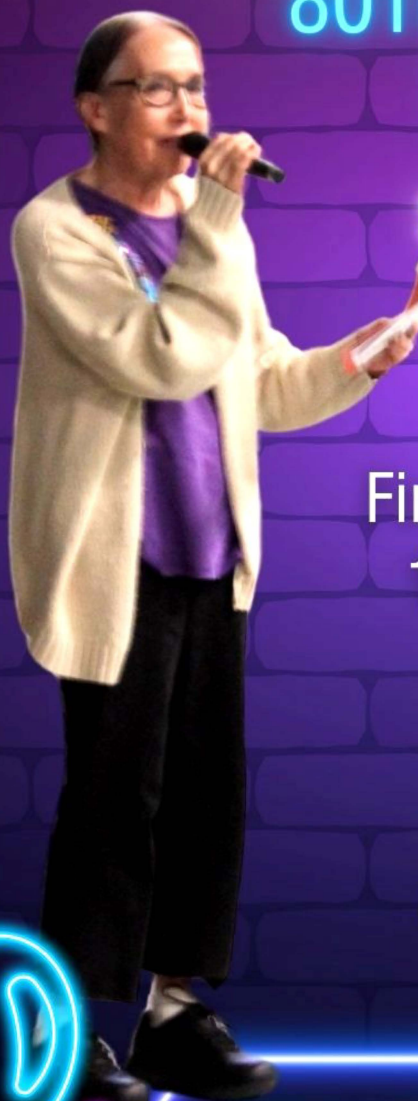
80TH BIRTHDAY
PARTY

SATURDAY, MAY 10
FROM 12PM - 2PM

Zimmerman Hall,
First Church in Albany
110 North Pearl St.,
Albany NY 12207

RSVP BY TEXT TO
518-961-2027 OR EMAIL
CARDIACSCI@HOTMAIL.COM
SUBJECT: AUDREY MING

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE



A Visit During Lent



Upcoming visit from the President of New Brunswick Theological Seminary

Dear FCIA Community,

I will be reaching out for your help in hosting a denominational leader.

The President of New Brunswick Seminary will preach at FCIA on Sunday, March 30, 2025!!!!



Rev. Micah L. McCreary, Ph.D

This is part of a tour coordinated by the seminary and the denomination. I was previously asked and have agreed to participate in an event on Saturday, March 29th, at First Schenectady. Details to follow.

In terms of FCIA, we can expect additional guests on Sunday, March 30th. Albany has several retired pastors in the area with close affiliation to the seminary. Thus, we will need to plan a nice coffee hour and to promote the President's arrival throughout the Albany area. The seminary is promoting the event as well.

Perhaps we can consider providing the President and distinguished guests with an additional display of First Church archives. He will receive a tour on Saturday at First Schenectady and their archive room is open for viewing. As some of you know, the seminary holds most of the denominations archives including a substantial amount from FCIA in the historic Sage library on campus.

Blessings,
Rev. Mashona