



The First Church in Albany

Do Not Worry

Sunday, March 2, 2025, 10am

**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.

Prelude

*"In the Garden"
"Ville Du Harve"*

*arr. W. Held
arr. W. Held*

Tolling of the Bells

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing *Romans 15:13*

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." **Amen.**

Call to Worship UMC.org

Votum: Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth. **Amen.**

The presence of the Lord is here among us;
Protecting us, loving us, encouraging us.

We come as a people of hope to witness God's power;

Fixing our eyes on what is true and right and Holy.

May our hearts and minds dwell in the peace that only our Lord can provide. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** *"Blessed Assurance"*

See p.7

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we confess that when we hear about the sick, natural disasters, superstorms, political unrest, and inflation we become anxious. We worry about our children, neighbors, and ourselves. We know not to put our trust in things that months and rust destroy. Yet, we look at our savings, retirement portfolios, and income for assurance. Help us to live lives filled with blessed assurance at all times.

Time of silence

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law

Where is God? God is a present help in the time of trouble. Who can we trust? Lean not on your own understanding. Trust God with your whole heart and mind.

***Passing the Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us spend a few moments greeting one another.

Prayer for Illumination

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Old Testament

Psalm 1

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked or take the path that sinners tread or sit in the seat of scoffers, but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous, for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Text

Luke 12:22-31

He said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, you of little faith! And do not keep seeking what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that seek all

these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Don't Worry

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of Response** *“Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed”*

See p. 9

Profession of Faith *The Apostles' Creed (traditional version)*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

**He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church*,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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 Prayer

Generous God, we offer you our praise, hearts, money, and lives. Thank you for everything you give to us. We give back some of what you have given to us. Use it for your glorious purposes. Amen.

Offertory Hymn

“MARTYDOM”

arr. Fedak/Smith

***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.**

The Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Communion Hymn

"In Remembrance of Me"

See p. 10

Communion Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Mystery of the Faith

Christ has died!

Christ has risen!

Christ will come again!

Celebration of Communion

Intercession

We, indeed, praise and thank you, O Lord, that you have fed us at your Table. Grateful for this gift and mindful of the communion of your saints, here and in all places, we offer to you our prayers for all people:

Prayers offered

Prayer LIST as of 2.28.25

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

♥ **Indicates a new listing**

Current Concerns

- ♥ Anita Tirpak, Rev. Trey's mother, with a recent diagnosis
- ♥ Vanessa, Rev. Trey's cousin, with a cancer diagnosis
- Peter Pagerey, watch for meal info to come
- Wilma Sheffer
- Mia Westman
- Peggy McMahon
- ♥ David Allan gives thanks for all the prayers as he has undergone treatment. His last treatment is on Ash Wednesday. He regularly joins us in worship online.

Ongoing Needs

- Olivia Gaydushek
- 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 Maisy.
- Congratulations to the Van Epps, Iteke Prins, and Jean Lamere who all welcomed great-grandchildren recently

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 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**

"When Peace Like a River"

See p. 12

***Charge & Blessing**

Postlude

"ASSURANCE"

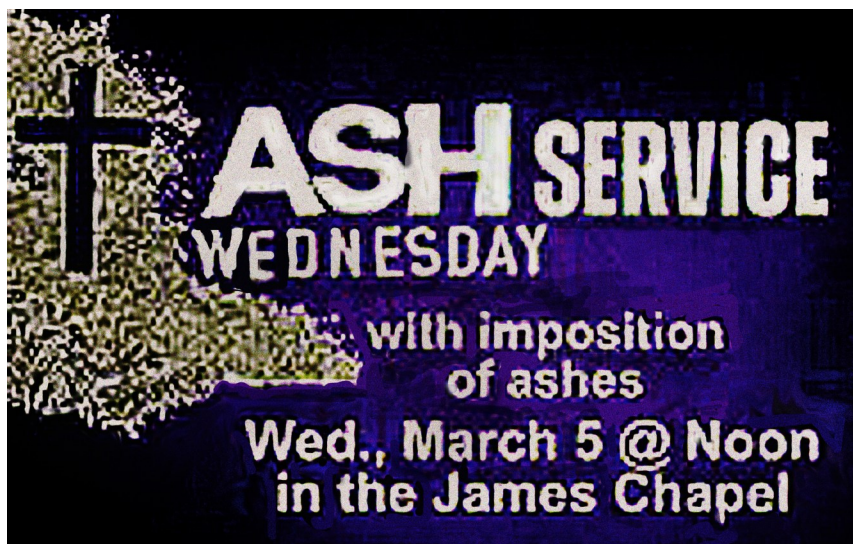
H.H. Hopson

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston
Liturgist: Joanna Brown
Organist: Iteke Prins
Vocalist and/or Specialist: Jackie Wright, flute
Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr

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Note:

- Rev. Trey will host Second Hour in Zimmerman Hall after Coffee Hour.
- Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. See opportunities to receive ashes below.



839 Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

1 Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a
 2 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, vi - sions of
 3 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest; I in my

fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion,
 rap - ture now burst on my sight; an - gels de - scend - ing,
 Sav - ior am hap - py and blest, watch - ing and wait - ing,

pur - chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
 bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
 look - ing a - bove, filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

Refrain

This is my sto - ry; this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior

Sometimes this prolific 19th-century hymnwriter wrote texts for others to set, and sometimes she created words for tunes others had composed. This text was of the second kind, and the resulting close fit between words and music has made them both popular and inseparable.

TRUSTING IN THE PROMISES OF GOD

all the day long; this is my sto - ry; this is my

song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

Lectio
Divina

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.

212 Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, and
 2 Was it for sins that I have done he
 3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide and
 4 But drops of grief can ne'er re - pay the

did my Sov - ereign die! Would he de - vote that
 suf - fered on the tree? A - maz - ing pit - y!
 shut its glo - ries in, when Christ, the great Re -
 debt of love I owe; here, Lord, I give my -

sa - cred head for sin - ners such as I!
 Grace un - known! And love be - yond de - gree!
 deem - er, died for hu - man crea - tures' sin.
 self a - way; 'tis all that I can do.

Much like this author's "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (nos. 223, 224), this more introspective treatment of Christ's crucifixion calls forth self-sacrifice from the beholder. It is set here to a tune that may well have originated as an 18th-century Scottish folk song.

521 In Remembrance of Me

Capo 3: (G) (Bm) (C) (D7)
 B^b Dm E^b F7

1 In re - mem - brance of me, eat this bread. In re -
 2 In re - mem - brance of me, heal the sick. In re -

(C) (Am) (D) (D7) (Em)
 E^b Cm F F7 Gm

mem - brance of me, drink this wine. In re - mem - brance of
 mem - brance of me, feed the poor. In re - mem - brance of

(C) (F) (D) (G) (Bm)
 E^b A^b F B^b Dm

me, pray for the time when God's own will is
 me, o - pen the door and let your neigh - bors

1 2
 (C) (D7) (C) (D7) (G)
 E^b F7 E^b F7 B^b

done. in, let them in.

(E^b) (G) (E^b)
 G^b B^b G^b

Take, eat, and be com - fort - ed; drink and re -

(Cm) (G) (Em) (D)
 E^bm B^b Gm F

mem - ber too, that this is my bod - y and

(C) (G) (A) (A7) (D7sus) (D7)
 Eb Bb C C7 F7sus F7

pre - cious blood shed for you, shed for you.

(G) (Bm) (C) (D7)
 Bb Dm Eb F7

3 In re-mem-brance of me, search for truth. In re-

(C) (Am) (D) (D7) (Em)
 Eb Cm F F7 Gm

mem-brance of me, al-ways love. In re-mem-brance of

(C) (F) (D) (G) (D7sus) (D7)
 Eb Ab F Bb F7sus F7

me, don't look a-bove, but in your heart, look for

(G) (D7sus) (D7) (G)
 Bb F7sus F7 Bb

God. Do this in re - mem - brance of me.

This text is built on four familiar words of Christ at the Last Supper, as recorded in Luke 22:19 and 1 Corinthians 11:24-25. Radiating from that corporate memory of the church, additional actions are encouraged in Christ's voice using allusions to other passages of Scripture.

840 When Peace like a River

It Is Well with My Soul

1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 He lives: O the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought. My
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the

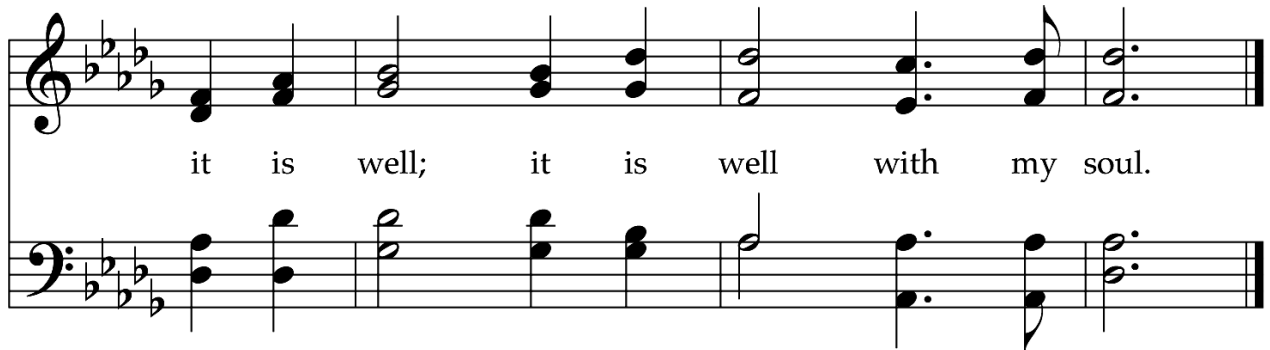
taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well with my soul;
 It is well with my soul;

This text is a remarkable expression of faith born of grief. The author, an active Presbyterian layman who had just lost four daughters in a tragic shipwreck, wrote it while sailing to Paris to meet his wife, who had survived. The tune was named for the ship that sank.

TRUSTING IN THE PROMISES OF GOD



Bible Study

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

The image is a promotional graphic for a Bible study. It features a white background with a gold border. At the top, the words 'Bible Study' are written in a large, elegant, black cursive font. Below this, the text 'JOIN US ON ZOOM MEETING' is in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Underneath that, the website 'www.firstchurchinalbany.org' is listed as the link for the meeting. The time 'WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30PM' is also in a bold, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the graphic is a photograph of an open Bible, showing the text of the Epistle to the Philippians, Chapter 1.

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!





CREATING HEALTHIER CONGREGATIONS

Don't miss this opportunity to gather with others from Albany Classis for a day of learning and leadership development.

March 15, 2025 

Delmar Reformed 

9:00am-4:00pm 

Gathering and refreshments at 8:30am

Facilitators:
Rev. Greg Town
Rev. Paige Convis

**REGISTRATION
IS REQUIRED**



bit.ly/AlbanyClassisCHC2025

ALL individuals within the churches of Albany Classis are invited to attend, *FREE of charge.*

Refreshments and lunch will be provided by the Classis.

Questions? Email...




































































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Greg: gnbtown@gmail.com

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				<i>March is Women's History Month</i> 	
2  Indoor Worship 10am  Communion Sunday  Coffee Hour  Pantry 9am  2nd HOUR	3 Leadership Mtg. 10am	4  Prayer Shawl Group 11:30am  Zoom Study 1pm  Pantry 9am 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  Recital April 12
9  Indoor Worship 10am  Communion Sunday  Coffee Hour  Pantry 9am  2nd HOUR	10	11  Prayer Shawl Group 11:30am  Zoom Study 1pm  Pantry 9am	12  Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am  Centering Prayer 12pm  AA 12pm Zoom Bible Study 7:30pm Crop Walk Committee Mtg. 4pm	13  Pantry 9am  Choir 6:30pm	14	15  Recital April 12 Creating Healthier Congregation (Albany Classis) Delmar Reformed Church
16  Indoor Worship 10am  Communion Sunday  Coffee Hour  Pantry 9am  2nd HOUR	17 St. Patrick's Day	18  Prayer Shawl Group 11:30am  Zoom Study 1pm  Pantry 9am	19  Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am  Centering Prayer 12pm  AA 12pm Zoom Bible Study 7:30pm Weather-vanes 12:30pm	20  Spring Begins  Pantry 9am  Choir 6:30pm	21	22  Recital April 12
23  Indoor Worship 10am  Communion Sunday  Coffee Hour  Pantry 9am  2nd HOUR	24 Food Pantries Training Event 11:15am	25  Prayer Shawl Group 11:30am  Zoom Study 1pm  Pantry 9am FOCUS Board Mtg. 6:30pm	26  Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am  Centering Prayer 12pm  AA 12pm Zoom Bible Study 7:30pm	27  Pantry 9am  Choir 6:30pm	28	29  Recital April 12
30  Indoor Worship 10am  Communion Sunday  Coffee Hour  Pantry 9am  2nd HOUR	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



First Church in Albany

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

www.firstchurchinalbany.org