

# The First Church in Albany

*Where your treasure is...*

Sunday, March 23, 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 Reflection a *haiku* for today's service

Not thoughts or actions—  
Our loves reveal who we are.  
He's worth all our love.

**Prelude**                      *Meditation on SLANE*      arr. L. Visser

## Tolling of the Bells

## Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing II Corinthians 3:17

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the  
Lord is, there is freedom!”

May freedom be yours in the name of the Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## Lenten Introit”*Forty Days and Forty Nights*” G. Smyttan/C. Kimberling

## Call to Worship Based on Psalm 63

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

Leader: O God, you are our God; earnestly we seek  
you.

**People: Our souls thirst for you, our whole being  
longs for you.**

Leader: We have seen your power and glory in the  
sanctuary.

**People: Because your steadfast love is better than  
life, our lips will praise you.**

Leader: We will bless you as long as we live!

**People: We will lift up our hands and call on your name.**

Leader: For our souls are satisfied as if we feasted at a banquet.

**People: We sing for joy because you protect us under the shadow of your wings.**

Leader: With joyful hearts, we glorify God's name!

**\*Opening Hymn**

*"Be Thou My Vision"*

See p. 6

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Jesus, you do not want us to merely believe in you or even follow you, but you want us to love you like newly found treasure. Forgive us for the times when we have turned you into a doctrine to believe or an ethic to live. By the Holy Spirit, reveal to us your surpassing worth so we might love you and truly know freedom. Amen.**

*Time of silence*

### **Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law**

Reformed Philosopher James K.A. Smith says, "You are what you love." The good news is not that Jesus gives us a new set of beliefs or shows us good actions to do; no, the good news is that Jesus gives us new loves, and when we love Jesus and what he loves, it is then that we are truly set free. Dearly beloved, love Jesus and his kingdom, and be set free.

### **\*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.

### **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.**

### **Scripture Reading**

Proverbs 2:1-15

My child, if you accept my words and treasure up my commandments within you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding,

if you indeed cry out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures—then

you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk blamelessly, guarding the paths of justice and preserving the way of his faithful ones.

Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path, for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; prudence will watch over you, and understanding will guard you.

It will save you from the way of evil, from those  
who speak perversely,  
who forsake the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness,  
who rejoice in doing evil and delight in the perverseness of evil,  
those whose paths are crooked and who are devious in their ways.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Sermon Text**

Matthew 6:19-21; 13:44-46

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also...

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **Sermon**

“Where you invest your love, you invest your life”

### **A Prayer of Blessing on the Word**

#### **\*Hymn of Response**

*“Jesus, Priceless Treasure”*

*See p. 7*

### **Profession of Faith *Belgic Confession: Article 21 §4***

**Therefore, we rightly say with Paul that we know nothing “except Jesus Christ, and him crucified”; we “regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus our Lord.” We find all comforts in his wounds and have no need to seek or invent any other means to reconcile ourselves with God...**



**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**    *“My Friends May You Grow in Grace ”*  
*Choir, Glenn Claydon, guitar*

My friends, may you grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.

My friends, may you grow in grace and in knowledge of Jesus Christ.

To God be the glory, now and forever.

Now and forever, amen.

To God be the glory, now and forever now and forever, amen

**\*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, you are our ultimate treasure, so take some of these treasures of ours and use them for your purposes. In Christ's name we pray. **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**

*“Take My Life”*

See p. 8

**\*Charge & Blessing**

**Postlude**

*“Come to Calvary’s ”*

*arr. M. Burkhardt*

**Notes & Announcements:**

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

**Preacher:** Rev. Trey Tirpak

**Liturgist:** Fran Carr-Morton

**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 3.17.25

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

**Current Concerns**

- ♥ Peter Pagerey, “Thanks to those who prayed for the success of my surgery and recovery, and for those who provided meals. Both were greatly appreciated.”
- ♥ Anita Tirpak, Rev. Trey’s mother, recovering at home after recent successful procedure
- ♥ Starlene Haviland, for upcoming eye surgery
- 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.
- Vanessa, Rev. Trey’s cousin, with a cancer diagnosis
- 

**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 WORD

450


Be Thou My Vision

Capo 1: (D) Eb (G) Ab (D/F#) Eb/G (A7) Bb7 (D) Eb




1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;  
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;  
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

(A) Bb (D) Eb (G) Ab (A) Bb




naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G) Ab (D) Eb (F#m7) Gm7 (G) Ab (A) Bb



thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;  
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

(Bm) Cm (D/F#) Eb/G (G) Ab (D) Eb



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.  
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

## Jesus, Priceless Treasure

F B<sup>b</sup> F C F

1 Je - sus, price - less trea - sure, source of pur - est plea - sure, friend most  
 2 Let your arms en - fold me: those who try to wound me can - not  
 3 Hence, all world - ly trea - sure! Je - sus is my plea - sure; Je - sus

G7 C F B<sup>b</sup> F C Dm

sure and true: long my heart was burn - ing, faint - ing much and  
 reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing, ev - ery heart be  
 is my choice. Hence, all emp - ty glo - ry! What to me your

G7 C F G7 C A Dm C

yearn - ing, thirst - ing, Lord, for you. Yours I am, O spot - less Lamb,  
 quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear. Fires may flash and thun - der crash;  
 sto - ry told with tempt - ing voice? Pain or loss or shame or cross

F Dm B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> C7 F

so will I let noth - ing hide you, seek no joy be - side you!  
 yea, though sin and hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.  
 shall not from my Sav - ior move me, since he chose to love me.

Words: Johann Franck, 1653; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, P.D.

Music (GUD SKAL ALTING MAGE/LINDEMAN 6.6.5.6.6.5.7.8.6): Ludvig M. Lindeman (1812-1887), P.D.

# Take My Life

697

1 Take my life and let it be con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;  
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would I with-hold;

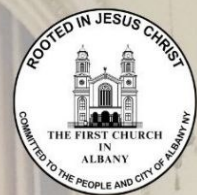
take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in  
 take my in - tel - lect and use ev - ery power as

cease - less praise; let them flow in cease - less praise.  
 thou shalt choose, ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;  
 it shall be no longer mine.  
 Take my heart, it is thine own;  
 it shall be thy royal throne,  
 it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
 at thy feet its treasure store;  
 take myself and I will be  
 ever, only, all for thee,  
 ever, only, all for thee.

This hymn of consecration radiates from the repeated word “take,” resulting in a remarkably full survey of a person’s attributes and possessions and giving weight to the “all” at the end. The composer of the tune was influential in the renewal of Reformed hymnody in French.



# 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**

**30<sup>th</sup>**

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

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

# 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.

# Bible Study

JOIN US ON ZOOM MEETING  
[www.firstchurchinalbany.org](http://www.firstchurchinalbany.org) for link

WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30PM



The First Church in Albany

Join us at

Wednesday at noon

in our Sanctuary

All are welcome!

# Centering PRAYER

Communion will be shared  
at this gathering

110 North Pearl St. Albany NY 12207

## 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!



# 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 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 KIDS ART MINISTRY	10	11 Pantry 9am BIBLE Zoom Study 1pm	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 KEYS KIDS Recital April 12 Creating Healthier Congregation (Albany Classis) Delmar Reformed Church
16 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour Pantry 9am KIDS ART MINISTRY	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Pantry 9am BIBLE Zoom Study 1pm	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 KEYS KIDS Recital April 12
23 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour Pantry 9am 2nd HOUR KIDS ART MINISTRY	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 AA 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 KIDS ART MINISTRY	31	 <p>New Brunswick Theological Seminary Seminar - Covenant Hall, 1st Reformed Schenectady 9am-12pm</p> <p><b>President Micah McCreary will be preaching at First Church Sunday, March 30 at 10am.</b></p>				

CACC Overflow Shelter Daily 6pm- 8am

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

# MARCH 2025

<b>MON</b> <b>24</b>	<b>FOOD PANTRIES OF THE CAP DIST TRAINING EVENT</b>	<b>11:15AM</b>
<b>TUE</b> <b>25</b>	<b>PANTRY</b> <b>ZOOM BIBLE STUDY</b> REGIONAL SYNOD RESTRUCTURING INFO SESSION [A7] DELMAR REFORMED	<b>9AM</b> <b>1PM</b> <b>6PM</b>
<b>WED</b> <b>26</b>	<b>SOUP &amp; SANDWICHES</b> <b>CENTERING PRAYER</b> IN SANCTUARY <b>AA MEETING</b> <b>ZOOM BIBLE STUDY</b>	<b>11:30AM</b> <b>NOON</b> <b>NOON</b> <b>7:30PM</b>
<b>THU</b> <b>27</b>	<b>PANTRY</b> <b>CHOIR REHEARSAL</b>	<b>9AM</b> <b>6:30PM</b>
<b>FRI</b> <b>28</b>	<b>CASTLE ISLAND MONTESSORI FERIA DE ESPAÑOL</b>	<b>11AM</b>
<b>SAT</b> <b>29</b>	<b>REGIONAL CONNECTION BREAKFAST</b> <b>KEYS FOR KIDS</b>	<b>9AM</b> <b>10AM</b>
<b>SUN</b> <b>30</b>	<b>LECTIO DIVINA WORSHIP</b> WITH REV. DR. MICAH MCCREARY, PRESIDENT OF NEW BRUNSWICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY PREACHING <b>FOLLOWED BY A COVERED DISH LUNCHEON IN ZIMMERMAN HALL</b>	<b>9AM</b> <b>10AM</b>

LENT



**THE CACC OVERFLOW SHELTER IS NOW OPEN EACH EVENING 6PM - 8AM.**  
FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT [WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG](http://WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG)



## First Church in Albany

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

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



**Please RSVP to Becky Mondore by April 25th:**

cardiacsci@hotmail.com or  
TEXT 518-961-2027

**From Audrey,**

No gifts please. Your presence will be the best gift.

If you would like to do something, in addition, you may give a contribution to **First Church, designated for the Weathervanes.**

If you cannot come to the party but would still like to do something which would make me happy, you can mail in a contribution.

Hope to see you there.

Thank you for helping me celebrate my birthday!"



# 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