

The First Church in Albany



IS AN ACT OF FAITH

Sunday, May 25, 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

If we say, "Yes God!",
we become God's co-workers
in new, glorious fields.

Prelude "Talk About a Child that Do Love Jesus"
Trad. Spiritual—E.R. Carter

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing Revelation 3:20 (CEB)

"Behold! I'm standing at the door and knocking. If any hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to be with them, and will have dinner with them, and they will have dinner with me." **Amen.**

Call to Worship Based on Psalm 67

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

Leader: Come! Let us worship the Lord whose face shines upon us!

People: Who is gracious to us and blesses us!

Leader: Let all people's praise you, O God!

People: Let all the nations be glad and sing for joy!

Leader: For you are the arbiter of justice for all, and the source of light for all.

People: Your faithfulness knows no end!

Leader: Let us sing to the Lord whose mercies are new each morning

*Opening Hymn

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

See p. 7

Call to Confession

Hear these words from the Apostle Paul: “Therefore, after you have gotten rid of lying, each of you must tell the truth to your neighbor because we are parts of each other in the same body. Be angry without sinning. Don’t let the sun set on your anger. Don’t provide an opportunity for the devil. Thieves should no longer steal. Instead, they should go to work, using their hands to do good so that they will have something to share with whoever is in need.

Don’t let any foul words come out of your mouth. Only say what is helpful when it is needed for building up the community so that it benefits those who hear what you say. Don’t make the Holy Spirit of God unhappy—you were sealed by him for the day of redemption. Put aside all bitterness, losing your temper, anger, shouting, and slander, along with every other evil. Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to each other, in the same way God forgave you in Christ.”

Let us now confess our sin to God and one another:

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you have called us to live as one body of Christ—to speak truth in humility, to act with kindness and boldness of faith, and to let go of bitterness, for it only holds us back. Forgive us for so frequently falling short of your calling. Send your Holy Spirit to renew us and our life together. Jesus, teach us to say “yes!” to you leading, and “yes!” to one another. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray; Amen.

Time of silence, followed by pouring of water into the baptismal font

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law

Leader: In Jesus Christ, God has spoken truth in love, acted with perfect kindness, and forgiven us fully and freely. When we confess, God is faithful to forgive and to renew us by the Holy Spirit.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! We are one body, made whole by grace alone.

Leader: In grace, God says “yes!” to us, and so when we say “yes!” to God and one another, we become free—free to live a liberated and loving life, free to live a life that looks like Jesus.

People: By the Spirit's power, we say “yes!” to God and “yes!” to one another.

*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 Christ’s peace.

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

Children's Moment

Prayer for Illumination

Speak, O Lord. Open our ears so we may hear. Make us eager to follow you and serve as your co-workers. Give us the faith to say "Yes!" Amen.

Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 3:1-16 (CEB) *"Wisdom applied to the divisions in the church"*

Brothers and sisters, I couldn't talk to you like spiritual people but like unspiritual people, like babies in Christ. I gave you milk to drink instead of solid food, because you weren't up to it yet. Now you are still not up to it because you are still unspiritual. When jealousy and fighting exist between you, aren't you unspiritual and living by human standards? When someone says, "I belong to Paul," and someone else says, "I belong to Apollos," aren't you acting like people without the Spirit? After all, what is Apollos? What is Paul? They are servants who helped you to believe. Each one had a role given to them by the Lord: I planted, Apollos watered, but God made it grow. Because of this, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but the only one who is anything is God who makes it grow. The one who plants and the one who waters work together, but each one will receive their own reward for their own labor. We are God's coworkers, and you are God's field, God's building.

I laid a foundation like a wise master builder according to God's grace that was given to me, but someone else is building on top of it. Each person needs to pay attention to the way they build on it. No one can lay any other foundation besides the one that is already laid, which is Jesus Christ. So, whether someone builds on top of the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, or hay, each one's work will be clearly shown. The day will make it clear, because it will be revealed with fire—the fire will test the quality of each one's work. If anyone's work survives, they'll get a reward. But if anyone's work goes up in flames, they'll lose it. However, they themselves will be saved as if they had gone through a fire. Don't you know that you are God's temple and God's Spirit lives in you?

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon To say "Yes!" is an Act of Faith.

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of Response** *"Will You Come and Follow Me?"*

See p. 9

Tithes & Offerings

Offertory

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

Spiritual

*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

Source of all goodness, we ask that you utilize these gifts for your purposes, and that we might be co-workers for those purposes. In Christ's name we pray; **Amen.**

Service of Farewell & Godspeed (includes communion)

see p. 5

Sending Hymn

“What Does the Lord Require of You?”

See p. 10

***Charge & Blessing** *From the RCA Farewell and Godspeed Liturgy*

**Unto God's gracious mercy we commit you.
The Lord bless you and keep you; May the Lord's face shine upon you
and be gracious unto you. May the Lord's light and countenance be
upon you and give you peace, both this day and forevermore. Amen.**

Postlude

“In that Great Gittin' Up Morning”

arr. J. Joubert

Note: Drive-In Worship begins next Sunday at 10 AM. Bring lawn chairs and an umbrella if you want to be in shade!

Preacher: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Liturgists:

Organist: Iteke Prins

Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss and
Stephen Reohr

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OPENING SENTENCES

PASTOR-CONGREGATION LITANY

Pastor: I thank you, my siblings in Christ, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these past six years. I am grateful for the ministry we have shared together. With joy I recall what we accomplished with God's help, and with sadness those dreams not fulfilled. I ask your forgiveness for mistakes made and expectations not met.

Congregation: We offer our forgiveness and celebrate all that God has accomplished among us. We are grateful for your ministry and for your influence on our lives. We ask your forgiveness for mistakes made and for expectations not met.

Pastor: I receive your gratitude and forgive your shortcomings. And I release you from the vows and promises made at my installation.

Congregation: We release you from your promises to us, and we offer you our blessing as you leave to minister elsewhere.

PRAYERS FOLLOWED BY A SONG OF FAREWELL

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

SENDING HYMN (next
page)

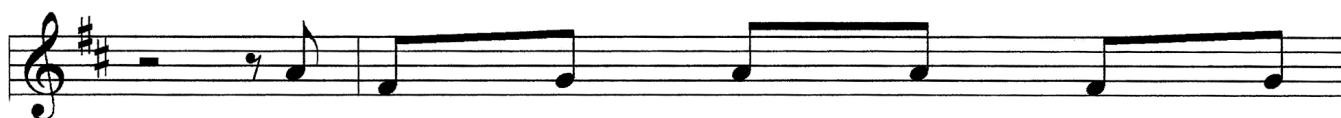


We Gather Here To Bid Farewell

Margaret Clarkson

Iteke Prins

Choir --1. We gather here to bid farewell. To friends who leave for other parts, our prayers we pledge our love we tell, and lift to God our grateful hearts.



2. We bless the hand that brought you
3. Our God is sov - reign o - ver
4. In friend - ships bond our souls u
5. God guide you, keep you, lead you



here, and rich - ly blessed us all in
all, his ways are right his pro - mise
nite. In prayer and praise and ho - ly
on, from hope to hope, from strength to



you. as you now leave for wi - der
true; and he who knows each spar-row
vows to God's great heart, of love and
strength, un - til in God's all glo - riou



sphere; God's cov - 'nant mer - cies we re - view.
fall, has care of us, has care of you.
light, your kin in Christ com - mit you now.
dawn; we meet be - fore his throne at length.

39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 *Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
 join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!
오 신 실 하 신 주 오 신 실 하 신 주

Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.
날 마 다 자 비 를 베풀 시 며

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.
일 용 할 모 든 것 내 려 주 시 니

Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!
오 신 실 하 신 주 나 의 구 주

**Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."*

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22-23, this text is one of the few hymns among the 1200 poems by this Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune that appears here was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.

726 Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons

Capo 3: (D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (Asus) (A)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 Csus C

1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(Em7) (G) (F#m7) (G) (Asus) (A)
 Gm7 B^b Am7 B^b Csus C

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

The first four stanzas of this ballad-like hymn are understood to be in the voice of Christ, with the fifth reflecting the individual singer's response. Created for this traditional Scottish tune, the text was written to mark the conclusion of a youth volunteer's time of ministry.

What Does the Lord Require of You? 70

Capo 3: (G) (D) (Em) (Bm)
 B^b F Gm Dm

*1.
 What does the Lord re - quire of you?

2.
 Jus - tice, kind - ness,

3.
 To seek jus - tice and love kind - ness


(C) (G) (Am) (D) (G)
 E^b B^b Cm F B^b *Repeat as desired*

What does the Lord re - quire of you?
 walk hum - bly with your God.
 and walk hum - bly with your God.





**The three melodic phrases may be sung consecutively, as a canon, or in any combination.*

This text is a very slight paraphrase of the latter part of Micah 6:8. That verse sums up in a single sentence the legal, ethical, and covenantal requirements of religion. The intertwining of these commitments can be suggested by singing these phrases in an overlapping canon.

Prayer LIST as of 5.20.25

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

Current Concerns

-  Gertrude Dorn who fell while gardening, injuring her arm, as she recovers
-  Michelle Williams, having a procedure
-  Janet Conti who is home, but became ill and was hospitalized. Hopefully coming home. She is also without her vehicle which is still in
-  Clarice Milliken, recovering from procedure.
 - Mary Bon will be having hip surgery on June 3rd at Albany Med.
 - David Allen, for his continued recovery.
 - Eric Witt Nebel's health, friend of Michelle Williams
 - Phyllis Dean, friend of Michelle Williams

Give Thanks

- We give thanks for the time shared with Sr. Minister, the Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston. We wish her well for the next chapter of her adventure.
- We welcome home Deacon Becky Hudak and fellow pilgrim Faye after their two-month long adventure on the Camino de Santiago in Spain. We look forward to all the stories of faith and friendship and growth.

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
- For those in our immediate area dealing with gun violence and its aftermath

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.

FCIA PRESENTS

WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG

DRIVE-IN
Worship

INVITE
FRIENDS,
SUNDAYS
AT 10AM

SUNDAY
WORSHIP
GOES
OUTSIDE

110 NORTH PEARL ST.
ALBANY NY
518-463-4449

FOLLOWED BY
THE LEMONADE
LULL IN CLEE
PARK

June 1
through
Labor
Day

Sheridan Ave. Lot next to FCIA

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

MAY & JUNE 2025

**MON
26**

MEMORIAL DAY
OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY



**TUE
27**

PANTRY
ZOOM BIBLE STUDY
ALBANY CLASSIS MTG.
FOCUS BOARD MTG.

9AM
1PM
6PM
6:30PM

**WED
28**

CENTERING PRAYER POWELL RM
AA MEETING
ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

NOON
NOON
7:30PM

**THU
29**

ASCENSION DAY
PANTRY

9AM

JUNE

**SUN
1**

DRIVE-IN WORSHIP [AT] FCIA
LEMONADE LULL

10AM
11AM

FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG



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www.firstchurchinalbany.org