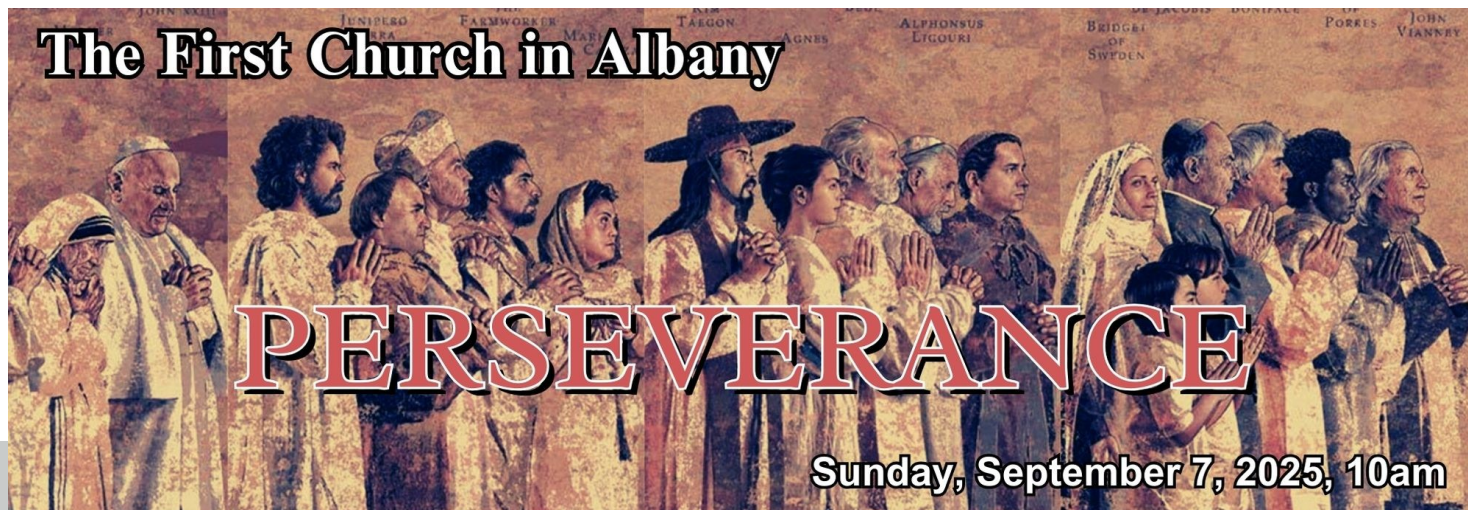


The First Church in Albany



Sunday, September 7, 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

"Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier (Blessed Jesus, We Are Here)"

J.S. Bach

Prelude on OLD HUNDREDTH

Piet Post

Tolling of Bell

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." **Amen.**

Call to Worship Based on Psalm 100

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

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.

People: Know that the Lord is God; it is God who made us, and we are the Lord's!

Leader: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and the Lord's courts with praise. Give thanks to the Lord; bless God's name!

People: For the Lord is good and God's steadfast love endures forever to all generations!

Leader: So, all people who dwell on the earth, rise and sing of the Lord's goodness!

***Opening Hymn** "All People That on Earth Do Dwell" See p. 6

**This is probably the oldest continuously sung congregational song in North America.*

Call to Confession

Now that we have entered God's courts with praise and approached the Lord's presence and throne, we come to realize we are in need of grace. As a communion of saints, let us confess our sin to God and one another, so we might open ourselves to even more of God's goodness and grace.

Prayer of Confession

God, you are the overflowing source of all goodness, and we confess that we forget there is goodness in your world and church. Too often we live as though your love is scarce and your grace is limited. Forgive us. Grant us vision to see your goodness shining like diamonds in the rough. Give us eyes to see neighbors and fellow saints, not as enemies, but as companions in your grace. Renew our strength to run with perseverance in this race of faith, fixing our eyes on Jesus and reflecting your goodness to the world and church. It is in his name we pray. Amen.

Time of silence and reflection

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law

By faith, the saints endured. By Christ, we are forgiven. Lift your eyes to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, and run free in his grace, for Christ has fulfilled the law with his perfect sacrificial love.

So, surrounded by this great cloud of witnesses who cheers us on, let us throw off every weighty burden and run with perseverance this race of faith, reflecting God's goodness to the world and church. In so doing, we will know Christ's peace.

Gloria Patri

The image shows a musical score for the Gloria Patri, consisting of four staves. The top two staves are for the vocal line, and the bottom two are for the piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. 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." The score includes a measure number '9' at the beginning of the piano part.

***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 Pom-Poms & Cheers

Prayer for Illumination

Risen Jesus, open us to your Word. Fix our eyes on you, so we run with perseverance and won't miss out on your grace. Amen.

Scripture Reading Deuteronomy 6:1-9 | "The Shema"

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Text Hebrews 12:1-8; 10-15 (CEB)

So then, with perseverance, let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let's throw off any burden, get rid of the sin that trips us up, and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith's pioneer and perfecter. He endured the cross, ignoring the shame, for the sake of the joy that was laid out in front of him, and sat down at the right side of God's throne.

Think about the one who endured such opposition from sinners so that you won't be discouraged and you won't give up. In your struggle against sin, you haven't resisted yet to the point of shedding blood, and you have forgotten the encouragement that addresses you as children:

My child, don't make light of the Lord's discipline
or give up when you are corrected by him,
because the Lord disciplines whomever he loves,
and he punishes every child whom he accepts.

Bear hardship for the sake of discipline. God is treating you like his children! For what child isn't disciplined by their parent? But if you don't experience discipline, which happens to all children, then you are illegitimate and not real children. Our human parents disciplined us for a little while, as it seemed best to them, but God does it for our benefit so that we can share his holiness. No discipline is fun while it lasts, but it seems painful at the time. Later, however, it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness for those who have been trained by it.

So strengthen your drooping hands and weak knees! Make straight paths for your feet so that if any part is immobile, it will be healed rather than injured more seriously. Pursue the goal of peace among everyone—and holiness as well, because no one will see the Lord without it. Make sure that no one misses out on God's grace. Make sure that no root of bitterness grows up that might cause trouble and pollute many people.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Perseverance is a gift of grace from God

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of Response** "Fight The Good Fight " See p. 7

Profession of Faith *Heidelberg Catechism Question & Answer #55*

Q. What do you understand by "the communion of saints"?

A. First, that believers one and all, as members of this community, share in Christ and in all his treasures and gifts.

Second, that each member should consider it a duty to use these gifts readily and joyfully for the service and enrichment of the other members.

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 *Prelude on "Rhosymedre"* Ralph Vaughan Williams

***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.**

Eucharistic Hymn "Come to the Table of Grace" See p. 8

For those who would like to sit at the center aisle table, please do so now.

~ THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER ~

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

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**

"Go to the World"

See p. 9

***Charge & Blessing**

Postlude:

"Fanfare"

Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens

Note: Join us after worship in Zimmerman Hall for coffee & fellowship.

Preacher: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Liturgist: Audrey Ming

Organist: Al Fedak

Vocalist: Sue Fedak

Worship Tech(s): Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr

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All People That on Earth Do Dwell

OLD HUNDREDTH

Psalm 100, William Kethe, 1561

L. Bourgeois' *Genevan Psalter*, 1551



1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell,
2. *The Lord ye know is God in deed;*
3. O en - ter then his gates with praise,
4. *For why? The Lord our God is good,*
5. To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,



sing to the Lord with cheer - ful voice;
with - out our aid he did us make;
ap - proach with joy his courts un - to;
his mer - cy is for ev - er sure;
the God whom heav'n and earth a - dore,



him serve with fear, his praise forth - tell,
we are his folk, he doth us feed,
praise, laud, and bless his name al - ways,
his truth at all times firm - ly stood,
from men and from the an - gel host



come ye be - fore him and re - jice.
and for his sheep he doth us take.
for it is seem - ly so to do.
and shall from age to age en - dure.
be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.



Fight the Good Fight 846

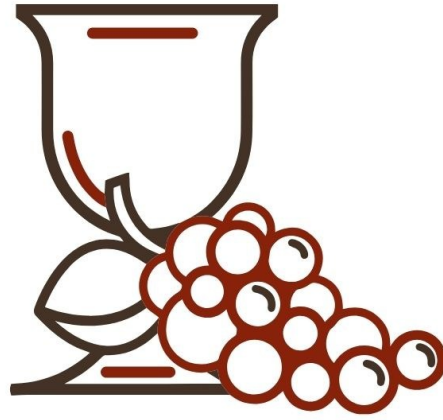
1 Fight the good fight with all thy might.
 2 Run the straight race through God's good grace;
 3 Cast care a-side; lean on thy guide.
 4 Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near.

Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.
 lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face.
 God's bound-less mer-cy will pro-vide.
 God chang-eth not, and thou art dear.

Lay hold on life, and it shall be
 Life with its way be-fore us lies;
 Trust, and thy trust-ing soul shall prove
 On-ly be-lieve, and thou shalt see

thy joy and crown e-ter-nal-ly.
 Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.
 Christ is its life, and Christ its love.
 that Christ is all in all to thee.

The opening phrase here (based on 1 Timothy 6:12) is not a military image but an athletic one, from a Greek verb meaning "struggle" or "grapple" or "wrestle." The sports context continues in later stanzas reflecting the experience of a runner (recalling Hebrews 12:1-2).



Come to the Table of Grace 507

Capo 3: (D) (A) (Bm) (D7/A) (G)
 F C Dm F7/C B \flat

1 Come to the ta - ble of grace. Come to the

(A) (D) (A) (D) (Em)
 C F C F Gm

ta - ble of grace. This is God's ta - ble; it's

(D/A) (G) (D/A) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
 F/A B \flat F/C C7 F B \flat F

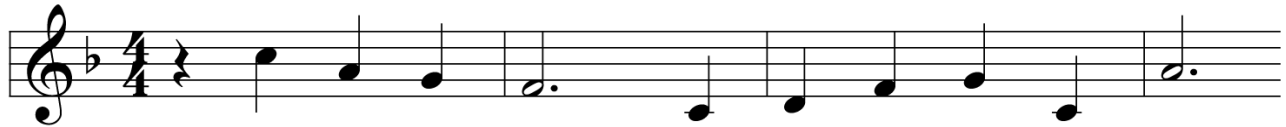
not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace.

- 2 Come to the table of peace...
- 3 Come to the table of love...
- 4 Come to the table of hope...
- 5 Come to the table of joy...

The simple, formulaic nature of this song makes it especially suitable for use during the communion portion of the Lord's Supper. Because it can be learned readily and does not require reference to a printed source, it frees people to sing before and after receiving the elements.

Go to the World!

295



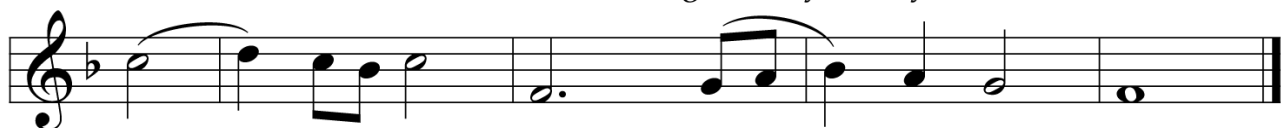
1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
 2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - ery place.
 3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
 4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,



Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
 Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
 the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
 for I am with you till the age shall end,



bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
 Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
 As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
 when all the hosts of glo - ry cry "A - men!"



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Based on Christ's great commission (Matthew 28:19-20), this text was written for a Convocation of Emmanuel College in Toronto, the largest theological school of the United Church of Canada, a denomination formed by the union of Methodists, Congregationalists, and Presbyterians.

TEXT: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1985
 MUSIC: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
 Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.

SINE NOMINE
 10.10.10 with alleluias

Blessing OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS AT FIRST CHURCH

On Sunday, Sept. 21, in worship, we will bless the prayer shawls created to comfort those among us in need of prayer. If you are interested in joining our prayer shawl ministry, they meet at 11:30 am on the first Tuesday of the month (exception for September) in the Powell Rm. at First Church.

Prayer LIST as of 9.2.25

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



Indicates a new listing

Current Concerns



- The Barrett and Tirpak families, for the loss of Tutu Kurt Winner, Trey's grandfather
- The Rev. Peggy Funderburke, may we celebrate in honor of her life and legacy. Her service is planned for Oct. 9, at Greenbush Reformed Church
- Keith Curry, church sexton, who remains hospitalized, for healing and wisdom for treatment.
- Carolyn Allen, for an upcoming medical test
- For Annunciation Catholic School and Minneapolis children and families dealing with the tragic events of this week. For all school communities returning with these concerns in the forefront of their minds as the school year begins.
- Ruth Pagerey, for her health to be restored
- For Iteke Prins, home and continuing her recovery
- For Jill Bushman, wife of Kent Bushman (retired director of Camp Fowler), who is undergoing cancer treatment
- For a friend of Becky Hudak and for Becky, as this friend who has an Alzheimer diagnosis is moving to Florida for care.
- Zachary, son of Joy Smith, experiencing a complicated medical issue
- Rev. Trey Tirpak's uncle who has an updated cancer diagnosis that allows for more treatment options
- For Carm and Julie, sister and brother-in-law of Pete Pagerey, for Carm's diagnosis of Parkinson's and a setback in his treatment

Ongoing Needs

- Olivia Gaydushek
- Mia Westman
- First Church, as it moves forward with a pastoral transition. For all that makes up that transition process.
- For areas recovering from natural disasters like flooding, fires, earthquakes, etc.
- For war-torn places and area of conflict throughout the world

Give Thanks

- For the ministry of Rev. Trey Tirpak and for his future with a new call and ministry
- For children, parents, teachers, and all school personnel concluding their summer and readying for the new school year

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.



Collecting Cold-weather Gear

As the summer winds down and the kiddos head back to school, we at First Church are starting to think about how to care for our neighbors when the cold weather hits. One of the ways we have provided is to offer cold-weather gear to those who visit our pantry and partake in the soup lunch. We would like to begin that collection now so we are ready when the need presents itself.

If you are crafty and knit or crochet, consider making simple hats, scarves and mittens to donate. We have a basket by Cleeo, our Nipper Dog, in the Sanctuary Lobby where items can be placed. We also thankfully accept store-bought items to hand out. These can be left on the table in the workroom.



SOUP & SANDWICHES
Begins Wednesday
November 5
Time TBD

Cleeo Park

Join us in the park for lunch. Fresh homemade soup and sandwiches. Free to all. Caring for our neighbors.

If you would like to volunteer to serve on a Wednesday, please contact office@firstchurchinalbany.org



#firstchurchinmotion



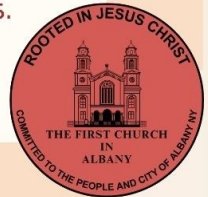
Sunday, September 14, 10am

Farewell & Godspeed Service

for Rev. Trey Tirpak

Join us as we bid farewell to Rev. Trey and we ask God to bless his future endeavors.

We give thanks for all he as meant to First Church in his time with us



Register Here:  downtownalbany.org/yogapalooza

MVP HEALTH CARE PRESENTS

Yoga Palooza

SEPT 13 | 11AM
FREE 60 MIN
ALL-LEVELS YOGA

Class led by a team of instructors from The Hot Yoga Spot

North Pearl Street Downtown Albany (between Sheridan Ave & Pine St)

Yoga Palooza 11AM FREE | REGISTER TODAY! 

\$8 PARKING available at ParkAlbany's Riverfront and Quackenbush Garages

PEARL PALOOZA
SEPT 13 | 12 - 7PM
N Pearl St. Downtown Albany

Rubblebucket
Dave Gutter • The Happy Fits
Ky McClinton Band

FEATURING DJ SETS BY: Kendo Tremblizzy • Spike Right • Rome


downtownalbany.org/pearlpalooza
[/yogapalooza](http://downtownalbany.org/yogapalooza)

ALBANY MECHANICAL SERVICES MG V curleaf
PRESENT THE 16TH ANNUAL

Yoga Palooza 12PM | Albany's free, signature live music festival!
LIVE BANDS | CRAFT BEER & FOOD | 30 VENDORS
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MVP HEALTH CARE GLOBAL PARTNERS **WAR CANNON** **EQX** **Silver Cannabis Company** **DOWNTOWN ALBANY** **SUGAR PRODUCTIONS** **HOLLOW** **ALBANY** **CDTE** **avelo** **RENAISSANCE** **THE HOT YOGA SPOT** **ALB to the CORE**

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY



- | | | |
|---|---|----------------|
| TUE
9 |  PANTRY | 9AM |
| | PRAYER SHAWLS MINISTRY MTG. | 11:30AM |
| | IN THE POWELL RM | |
| | CONSISTORY MTG. IN THE PARLOR | 6PM |
| | JOINT BOARDS MTG. IN THE PARLOR | 7PM |
| WED
10 | CENTERING PRAYER | NOON |
| | IN THE POWELL RM | |
| | AA MEETING IN THE PARLOR | NOON |
| THU
11 |  PANTRY | 9AM |
| |  | |
| SUN
14 | SERVICE OF FAREWELL & GODSPEED FOR REV. TREY TIRPAK | 10AM |
| | IN THE SANCTUARY | |
|  | SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR | 11AM |
| | IN ZIMMERMAN HALL | |

FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG



First Church in Albany

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www.firstchurchinalbany.org