

The First Church in Albany

Sunday, July 13, 2025, 10am

The Vine of

FRIENDSHIP



Radio Station: 87.9

Prelude *“Andante Cantabile, from Piano Sonata No. 13”*
W.A. Mozart

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.” John 15:12-13

Call to Worship

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

Leader: Christ is the vine!

People: We are the branches!

Leader: So abide in him, and bear fruit that will last.

People: We abide by doing what he commands:

Leader: Loving one another, as friends who selflessly love.

People: In this love, joy blooms like good fruit that will last.

Leader: So come, let us worship the One who calls us friend!

***Opening Hymn** (see p. 4)
“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Prayer of Confession & Call New Living

Vine of Love, we confess that we’ve resisted your command to love one another. We try to be branches of every other kind of vine. Forgive us. Teach us to be good friends—ones who mirror you—so we might bear good and joyful fruit. Amen.

***Passing the Peace** (during the passing of the peace, children please come forward for a message and blessing.)

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us greet one another with a honk of the horn and hand-sign of peace.

Children’s Message & Blessing

Prayer for Illumination

True Vine, we long to abide so we might truly live. Cut away what no longer gives life, and nourish us so we might flourish as your Church. Amen.

Sermon Text John 15:1-17

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon The Vine of Friendship

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

Prayers of the People by the People

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.

***Offertory & Sending Hymn** (see p. 5)
“Friends in Faith”

***Charge & Blessing**

***Postlude**

*“July: Song of the Reaper, from The Seasons, Op.
37a”* *P. Tchaikovsky*

Note: After worship today, we'll discuss parts of
the sermon during the Lemonade Lull. Everyone
is welcome to join the conversation!

Worship Leadership

Preacher: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Liturgist: Fran Carr Morton

Keyboardist: Eugene Sit

Vocalist: Susan Fedak

Audio/Video: Joshua Bliss,

Stephen Reohr

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465 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

죄짐맡은 우리구주

1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, cum-bere'd with a load of care?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge; take it to the Lord in prayer!

O what peace we of - ten for - feit; O what need - less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!

all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a so - lace there.

This text was written by an Irish-born immigrant to Canada to comfort his mother in Ireland when she was going through a time of special sorrow. The role of prayer as a source of strength and consolation is underscored by its repeated use as a rhyme word in all three stanzas.

Friends in Faith

1 Friends in faith who fol - low Je - sus, hear the
 2 Friends who strive to fol - low Je - sus, walk the
 3 Friends who dare to fol - low Je - sus, trust and
 4 Firm in faith, now fol - low Je - sus; live the

mes - sage of the cross: World - ly wis - dom
 way that Je - sus trod: Spir - it - filled, in
 pray through dark - est night: Christ has con - quered
 gos - pel you have heard: Be good news to

now is fol - ly; world - ly rich - es count as loss.
 hu - man weak - ness, cast your cares up - on our God.
 death and e - vil; Christ is joy and life and light.
 all who know you, lov - ing do - ers of the Word.

Prayer LIST as of 7.8.25

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

Current Concerns

- ❤️ For Iteke Prins, recovering from surgery, prayers for healing
- ❤️ For our brothers and sisters in Texas and other areas affected by recent natural disasters. We pray for comfort and peace as they mourn so many lost.
- For Deacon Joy Smith, recovering at home from a medical event.
- For Jesse Liburdi, family member of Kim Reohr, with an extremely high risk pregnancy, due in December.
- Friend of First, Charles Clark with health concerns.
- For Gertrude Dorn, as she continues her recovery from surgery.
- For our friend Donald Hansen, who we recently learned passed away.
- For Ian Leet, recovering from an injury after a fall.
- Brian Brooks, brother of Gayle Wlodkowski-Hitchcock, with health concerns

Give Thanks

- For all the graduates in our midst, we give thanks for your fortitude and tenacity to stay the course. Congratulations on your accomplishments.

Ongoing Needs

- Olivia Gaydushek
- Wilma Sheffer
- 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 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

Notes of Thanks

- Iteke Prins is thankful for all the prayers and calls as she journeys through a recent health issue.
- Gertrude Dorn gives thanks for all the prayers, calls and cards she received during her recent health issue.

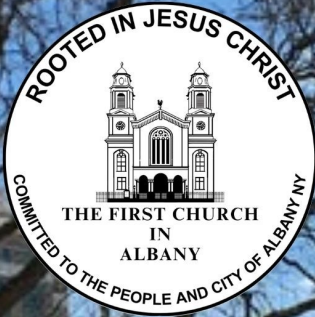
Note: Prayer concerns will be kept on the list for 4 Sundays. Please let the office or a member of Consistory know if a concern needs to be kept on after that.

**FCIA
HOT DOG
WEDNESDAY @NOON
THROUGH LABOR DAY**

We love treating our neighbors to lunch every Wednesday. We hope you can join us. It's a hot one, but we are ready with cold beverages and all the hot dog goodness!



Clee Park, 110
North Pearl St.
Albany
right next to FIRST
CHURCH



**SUNDAY,
JULY 27
IN CLEE
PARK**

**AFTER
WORSHIP**

ALL THE FELLOWSHIP FEELINGS ARE BUBBLING UP!

Dogs & Burgs
Meat & Meatless
Options will be
available.



**First Church
Grill-Out**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

JULY 2025



TUE 15

PANTRY



9AM

WED 16

CENTERING PRAYER POWELL RM
AA MEETING THE PARLOR
HOT DOGS IN THE PARK



NOON
NOON
NOON

THU 17

PANTRY



9AM

SUN 20

DRIVE-IN WORSHIP
LEMONADE LULL & SERMON
DISCUSSION



Sermon discussion



10AM
10:45AM



SUMMER



FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG



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