

# The First Church in Albany

THE  
TREE  
OF

12

KINDS  
OF  
FRUIT

Sunday, July 20, 2025, 10am

*Tree of 40 Fruit by Sam Van Aken*

**Radio Station: 87.9**

**Prelude** *“Song Without Words, Op 30 No 6”*

F. Mendelssohn

**Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing**

II Corinthians 13:14

“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 46*

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

Leader: Even as mountains tremble and waters roar,  
**People: God is our refuge and strength.**

Leader: We will not fear.

**People: For there is a river whose streams make the city of God jubilant!**

Leader: Like the river, God is in the midst of the city.

**People: And God makes wars cease.**

Leader: So, be still and know that I Am God, and that I Am a refuge for all.

**People: Let us worship this God who is our refuge and strength, and the fountain-source of all life!**

## **\*Opening Hymn**

(see p. 4)

*“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”*

## **Prayer of Confession & Call New Living**

**God of new realities, we, your Church, confess that for so much of the time it’s hard to see anything but scarcity, and we end up missing those streams of new life amongst us. We see decline, but are blind to new fruit. Forgive us. Open us to your vision of things, where rivers run through dry places, trees bear fruit for every season, and healing is in the wind. Plant your hope deep within us so we might grow in courage, imagination, and trust. 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**

**God of life, let your Scripture water us, so we might bear abundant, healing fruit. Amen.**

**Sermon Text** Revelation 22:1–6a

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

# Sermon “A Tree of Twelve Kinds of Fruit”

## 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)

*“O Holy City, Seen of John”*

**\*Charge & Blessing**

**\*Postlude**

*“Rondo, from Piano Sonata No. 16 in C major K.545”*

*W. A. Mozart*

**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:** Cameron Carley

**Keyboardist:** Eugene Sit

**Vocalist:** Susan Fedak

**Audio/Video:** Joshua Bliss,  
Stephen Reohr

## Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475

1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
 2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;  
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.  
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.  
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;  
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;  
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!  
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.  
 here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a-bove.

Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.

Rev. W. Russell Bowie, 1909

8. 6. 8. 6. 8. 6.

MORWELLHAM  
Charles Steggall (1826-1905)*With exultation*

1. O Ho - ly Cit - y seen of John,  
2. O shame to us who rest con - tent  
3. Give us, O God, the strength to build  
4. Al - read - y in the mind of God

Where Christ, the Lamb, doth reign, With - in whose four-square walls shall come  
While lust and greed for gain, In street and shop and ten - e - ment  
The Cit - y that hath stood Too long a dream, whose laws are love,  
That Cit - y ris - eth fair; Lo, how its splen - dor chal - len - ges

No night, nor need, nor pain, And where the tears are  
Wring gold from hu - man pain, And bit - ter lips in  
Whose ways are broth - er - hood, And where the sun that  
The souls that great - ly dare, Yea, bids us seize the

wiped from eyes That shall not weep a - gain!  
blind de - spair Cry, "Christ hath died in vain!"  
shin - eth is God's grace for hu - man good.  
whole of life And build its glo - ry there! A - MEN.

NOTE: One stanza of the hymn as originally written has been omitted.  
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# Prayer LIST

as of 7.17.25

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

♥ Indicates a new listing

## Current Concerns

- ♥ • Pam, daughter of Betty Pierce, recovering from a stroke
- ♥ • 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
- ♥ • For Iteke Prins, recovering after surgery, prayers for healing
- For Jesse Liburdi, family member of Kim Reohr, with an extremely high risk pregnancy, due in December.

## 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 flooding, 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

## Give Thanks

- For first responders, running toward danger, doing the heartbreaking work of recovery in times of disaster that is both natural and man-made.

**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.

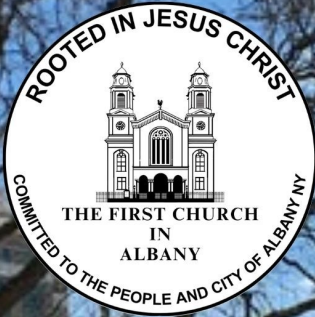


**F C I A**  
**HOT DOG**  
**WEDNESDAY @NOON**  
**THROUGH LABOR DAY**

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!

FREE

📍 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**  
22

**PANTRY**



**9AM**

**LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE MTG**

**NOON**

**WED**  
23

**CENTERING PRAYER POWELL RM**

**NOON**

**AA MEETING THE PARLOR**

**NOON**

**HOT DOGS IN THE PARK**



**NOON**

**THU**  
24

**PANTRY**



**9AM**

**SUN**  
27

**DRIVE-IN WORSHIP W/ COMMUNION**

**10AM**

**First Church Grill-Out**

**10:45AM**



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