

The First Church

FAMILY

*The First Church in Albany · Founded in 1642
Reformed Church in America*

June 2020

WORSHIP:

Worship Times	June	Preacher	Sunday	Scripture	Music
10:30 am	7	Sue Vincent Cox	Farewell & Communion		Rose Hunsberger, <i>Soprano</i> Elli Sol Strizich, <i>French Horn</i>
10:30 am	14	M Walston	Second Sunday after Pentecost	Psalm 100 Matt 9:35-10:8, (9-23)	Dave Fisk, <i>Saxophone</i>
10:30 am	21	M Walston	Installation/Ordination	Jeremiah 20:7-13 Matt 10:40-42	David Bon-Keen, <i>Tenor, Bassoon</i>
10:00 am	28	M Walston	Earlier Summer Worship Time	Jeremiah 28:5-9 Matt 10:40-42	Malcolm Moran, <i>Tenor, Guitar</i>



Communion for Sunday, June 7, 2020

Please continue to bring your own bread and juice. Feel free to create a special table on the dash of your vehicle if you are at the Drive-In or a special table at home if you are gathering from your home.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Centering Prayer each Wednesday at 12 noon via conference call.

Conference Call Information:

Dial in number: (425) 436-6200

Access code: 586376

Each Sunday the Drive-In Service is available via conference call

Dial in number: (425) 436-6200

Access code: 586376

Daily Bible Readings from RCA.org/revisedcommonlectionary

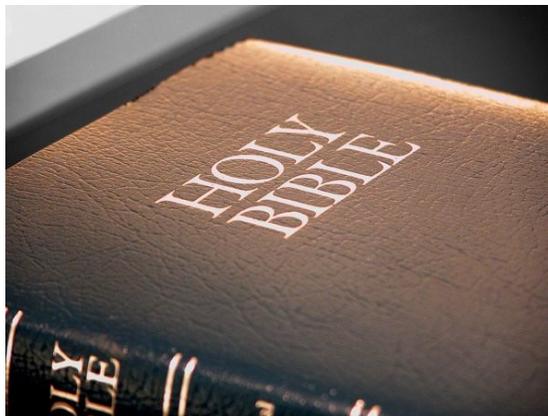
June 1–7 Monday Genesis 1:1-13 Tuesday Genesis 1:14-25 Wednesday Genesis 1:26–2:4 Thursday Psalm 8
Friday 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 Saturday Matthew 28:16-20 Sunday Trinity Sunday

June 8–14 Monday Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7) Tuesday Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 Wednesday Exodus 19:2-8
Thursday Psalm 100 Friday Romans 5:1-8 Saturday Matthew 9:35–10:8, (9-23) Sunday Second Sunday after
Pentecost

June 15–21 Monday Genesis 21:8-21 Tuesday Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 Wednesday Jeremiah 20:7-13 Thursday
Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18 Friday Romans 6:1-11 Saturday Matthew 10:24-39 Sunday Third Sunday after
Pentecost

June 22–28 Monday Genesis 22:1-14 Tuesday Psalm 13 Wednesday Jeremiah 28:5-9 Thursday Psalm 89:1-4,
15-18 Friday Romans 6:12-23 Saturday Matthew 10:40-42 Sunday Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 29–July 5 Monday Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 Tuesday Psalm 45:10-17 Wednesday Zechariah 9:9-12
Thursday Psalm 145:8-14 Friday Romans 7:15-25 Saturday Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 Sunday Fifth Sunday
after Pentecost





June Lectionary Readings

Season after Pentecost Year A	First* reading and Psalm	Alternate* First reading and Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Trinity Sunday June 7, 2020 <i>First Sunday after Pentecost</i>	<u>Genesis 1:1- 2:4a</u> <u>Psalm 8</u>		<u>2 Corinthians 13:11-13</u>	<u>Matthew 28:16-20</u>
Proper 6 (11) Second Sunday after Pentecost June 14, 2020	<u>Genesis 18:1- 15, (21:1-7)</u> <u>Psalm 116:1- 2, 12-19</u>	<u>Exodus 19:2-8a</u> <u>Psalm 100</u>	<u>Romans 5:1-8</u>	<u>Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)</u>
Proper 7 (12) Third Sunday after Pentecost June 21, 2020	<u>Genesis 21:8- 21</u> <u>Psalm 86:1- 10, 16-17</u>	<u>Jeremiah 20:7-13</u> <u>Psalm 69:7-10, (11- 15), 16-18</u>	<u>Romans 6:1b-11</u>	<u>Matthew 10:24-39</u>
Proper 8 (13) Fourth Sunday after Pentecost June 28, 2020	<u>Genesis 22:1- 14</u> <u>Psalm 13</u>	<u>Jeremiah 28:5-9</u> <u>Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18</u>	<u>Romans 6:12-23</u>	<u>Matthew 10:40-42</u>

IMPORTANT: FIRST CHURCH ONLY ACCEPTS MAIL-IN DONATIONS

A note from Pastor Mashona:

Please only send donations to First Church's official mailing address. Unfortunately, over the past couple years someone continuously sets up fake email accounts in the names of our clergy/ministers at First Church in Albany. Our ministers and staff do not solicit donations via email, text, or wire accounts. For your protection please do not give your personal information online, email, text, or phone. We ask that all donations to First Church be mailed directly to First Church in Albany (110 North Pearl Street) and to no single individual or alternate method at this time.

FROM PASTOR MASHONA

Mashona Walston, Senior Minister

June 2020

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 all are loved.

As I sit in my office at The First Church in Albany, I am grateful to serve in a progressive environment. Long before I arrived, First Church committed to spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ to all while making room for all. I interpret the mission statement to mean that all lives matter. My life, my Black life matters! Your life matters. So, may we, (as an unwritten premise) include **advocacy** for human rights of all. If life can be unjustly taken and risked in Minnesota, Georgia, and Central Park, NY. It can happen here! May we join the voices of the marginalized and reject hate.

Memorial: Our nation is now grieving more than 100,000 deaths from COVID-19. We pause to remember all those we have loved and lost. We lift them to our Lord.

THE ROAD AHEAD

Drive-In Worship: We continue to feel the blessings of increasingly high attendance for worship on Sundays in our Drive-In. Our weekly worship is blessed with visitors who are not able to worship in their home churches. FCIA is serving the people of Albany and beyond.

Story Time: Please volunteer to help us offer a week of *Storytime* to children K-3. We are looking for readers who will read at least one story. *Storytime* is for 30 to 45 minutes via online and conference call. We would like to offer this service to all. Yes, all the children of Albany who will not get to enjoy Vacation Bible School this summer. The stories chosen will be classic and childhood favorites with lots of imagery. Many thanks to Carla E a retired teacher who helped give clarity to this vision and make it achievable. We are aiming for the last week of July 2020. Times and exact days to be announced.

Father's Day: This month we wish to lift all the men of FCIA who are loving, caring, kind, selfless and love God. Are you a First Church man? I can tell you that in my time here I have witnessed them: volunteer at the food pantry; usher in the Drive-In; take time to encourage the youth; treat the homeless and troubled with dignity and respect; lead worship; serve on boards and committees; work in the garden, clean up, set up and repeat! The men of First Church lead the way as active, generous and loving human beings. Please join me this entire month and thank a First Church man for his service to Christ!

Giving: Please do not accept any communication from anyone representing staff or clergy asking for donations or to be rescued from another country. Please give to FCIA by mailing donations to The First Church in Albany located 110 N. Pearl Street, Albany, NY 12207.

Food Pantry: We are looking for a **few volunteers for the summer**. COVID-19 protocols are strictly followed. Due to online pre-ordering little to no contact with others. Mondays & Wednesdays 9 to 11:30pm. Please spread the word we have plenty of food. If you can eat, you can receive. We are **looking for new families and individuals to receive**. Call the church on Monday or Wednesday from 8am to 11am and place your order. We are happy to bring your package outside to you!

Social Justice: I have and will continue to work for positive change, human rights and reconciliation. For updates on my progress please see our Facebook page. Also, I am available for one-on-one talks.

FROM PASTOR SUE

Sue Cox, Minister of Discipleship and Mission

June 2020



Farewell to First Church



I am amazed by our ability to adapt, as individuals and as churches. In these past few months, we have all been challenged to adapt like never before. This pandemic has shaken up what was familiar and challenged us to do things very differently. But we are finding our way, doing zoom meetings, offering wonderful safe outdoor worship, meeting our challenges and bringing forward our gifts and contributions.

My last day with First Church will be June 15th and this will be another change for us all. I will miss all of you. I have been blessed to be a pastor with you for 8 ½ years where we worshipped together and I have also been blessed to witness many of you grow in small groups like bible study, NVC, Pilgrims Walk, Children and Worship, Mothers Group and more.

I pray God will bless you all in these days ahead, that you will keep growing in your capacity to "love your neighbors as yourself". I pray God will keep blessing Rev. Mashona as your pastor, that your love will continue to thrive for her, her leadership will continue to flourish, and that this congregation will assist in what God is doing differently with FC. Whether we welcome this or not, our churches will be redefined by this strange season we are now in.

Keep holding up the torch FC, for one another and for this city. Keep being God's love in the world. You will all always be special in my heart, a dear church family who I have enjoyed from the moment God first brought us together. I pray for many blessings to come, new ideas, strong compassionate leadership with Mashona, and the courage to enter into new ways of thinking about church.

I am sad I could not have had more time with you all in these last few months. I also feel sad I cannot hug you all, or shake your hands. But know our love as a Christian family cannot be stopped by anything and let's treasure for many years to come what we did in ministry together.

My love to you All,

Reverend Sue Vincent Cox



MUSIC CORNER



From Mary Bon:

A colleague of mine, Peter Sykes, whom I went to school with, wrote this for his church's newsletter. It feels appropriate at this moment when experts recommend that, to be safe, singers need to be 23-27 feet distance from others.

On Singing Together

*By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept
when we remembered Zion.*

*There on the poplars
we hung our harps -*

*How can we sing the songs of the Lord
while in a foreign land? - Psalm 137*

The world we live in - for now - is a foreign land indeed.

The pandemic has brought devastation and calamity on many fronts, and one casualty – for now - is singing together. It's been well established that choir rehearsals and congregational singing are among the riskiest activities for infection; singers, even amateurs, are 'super spreaders' because of their athletic breathing and projection.

Simply put, as long as we must have social distancing we cannot have ensemble singing.

This is a tragedy for now – but it is for now.

Nothing keeps us from singing together in family circles.

Nothing keeps us from singing along to recordings,
or on Sundays to the organ accompaniment on our live streamed services.

Nothing keeps us from singing when on our walks outside.

Singing will continue, and when we come together again there will be a joyful noise of gratitude heard all over the world as we blend our voices in a chorus of wonder, love and praise.

These words were never more true...

My life flows on in endless song;

Above earth's lamentation,

I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn

That hails a new creation.

Through all the tumult and the strife,

I hear that music ringing

It finds an echo in my soul

How can I keep from singing?

No storm can shake my inmost calm

While to that rock I'm clinging

Since Love is Lord of heaven and earth

How can I keep from singing?

I love you all.

We will sing together again.

Peter Sykes,

Associate Professor of Music and Chair of Historical Performance, Boston University

Director of Music, First Church in Cambridge

It expresses my feeling, too. In certain hope of better times to come. Love to you all. Mary

SPRING FLING CONCERTS and SUMMER IN THE CITY CONCERTS CANCELED

Under the COVID-19 Phased Opening Guidelines issued by the NY Governor's Office, Concerts and live Musical Events will not be allowed until *Phase 4*. In a conversation with the Albany County Health Department on May 24th, they indicated that presently we were only in Phase 1 and Phase 4 would not begin until Mid-July at the earliest. Due to these restrictions and the uncertainty surrounding Phase 4 dates, there will be no **SPRING FLING or SUMMER IN THE CITY CONCERTS** this summer. Be well, stay safe, stay home, and social distance when that is not possible.

FOOD PANTRY

Food Pantry Announcement: Summer Volunteers needed! Please call Lorraine at the church on Mondays and Wednesdays (518) 463-4449.



CELEBRATING FATHERS' DAY

I would like to remember Ken Huba. Ken was one of the first people to make me feel welcome when I joined the church. Although he had a condition which caused him constant pain in his legs, he was always friendly and cheerful. He had made a decision that he was not going to let his pain keep him from fully participating in the life of the church. In the days before we had an elevator, he would make his way painfully down the stairs to Zimmerman Hall to attend whatever was going on there. Ken passed away in 1979. We got the elevator a few years later.

Audrey Ming

FICA MEMBERS AND HISTORY

The American Revolution

Audrey Ming is not a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution but could become a member if family lore could be proven to be true. The story is that her fourth great grandfather, Frederick Goodell, crossed the Delaware with Washington on December 26, 1776.

First Church's role in the city in 1970

Want to see a glimpse of FCIA's recent history? Check out this piece from the Times Union's Looking Back feature from May 8, 2020, which goes back to May 8, 1970. In it, Pastor Bill Cameron discusses First Church's role in preserving downtown and the need for adequate housing. You'll love the photo!

<https://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Looking-Back-15257592.php>

SUPPORT FOR DEMENTIA CAREGIVERS DURING COVID-19

A word from Molly McAnn-Mall of the Alzheimer's Association of Northeastern New York:

“During this time, some members may be caring for their loved one with dementia at home. Many community resources such as in-home care and day program services may be limited or unavailable at this time. Others, with loved one in long-term care communities, are not able to visit and communicate with their loved ones as they are used to.

Regardless of their unique situations, the COVID-19 outbreak is adding a tremendous amount of stress to dementia caregivers.

During this time of uncertainty, and always, please share with your members that the Alzheimer's Association is just a phone call away. They can call our 24/7 Helpline to speak confidentially with Masters level care consultants for decision making support, crisis assistance and education on caregiving issues they may now be facing. **We are available for around-the-clock support at 1-800-272-3900.**

Please let your members know that while our staff is working remotely at this time, Alzheimer's Association operations continue. We are conducting many of our core services such as care consultations, education programs and support groups online or by phone... if any member would like to speak to me for any other additional information or for a consultation... I am working remotely and am the staff member that meets with all Albany County families."

Molly McCann-Mall, MHA (she, her, hers) | Associate Director of Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives | Alzheimer's Association of Northeastern New York | Office: 518.867.4999 ext.1685 | Direct Line: 518.675.7210 | mmccannmall@alz.org | alz.org/northeasternny | 24/7 Helpline: 800.272.3900

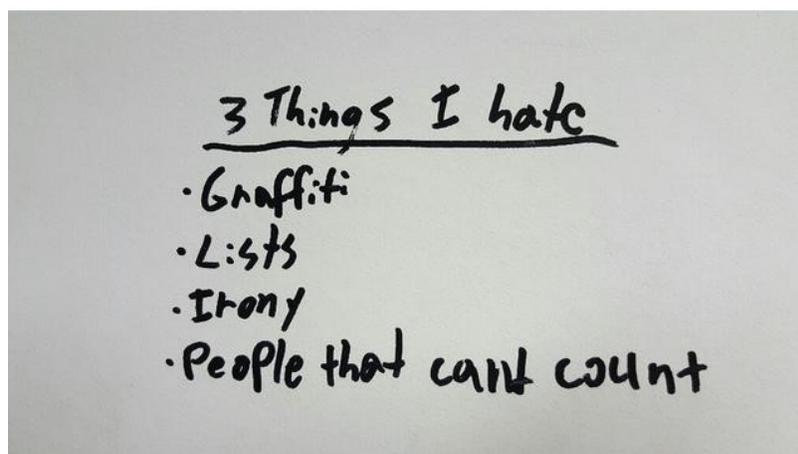
If you would like a brochure on the Alzheimer's Association of Northeastern New York caregiver support groups, please contact the First Church office.

NEW EMAIL FOR FCIA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:

For emailed questions or concerns for the Administrative Office, please contact Rose at firstchurchoffice1642@gmail.com.



From Wayne Sivaslian:



CLEEO

From Betsy Gorman, First Church Communications Coordinator

The First Church Nipper, Cleo, is finished and is now in the process of receiving her seal coating before being placed back at her perch in front of Clee Park. Albany Downtown Business Improvement District (Albany BID) generously donated a new Nipper sculpture and will install her in June along with the other Nipper Dogs that grace downtown Albany. First Church Communications Coordinator, Betsy Gorman created the surface design which was modeled after the FC Tiffany designed stained glass windows and the church's iconic architecture. She chronicled her progress on the FC [website](#).



**HAPPY
FATHER'S
DAY**