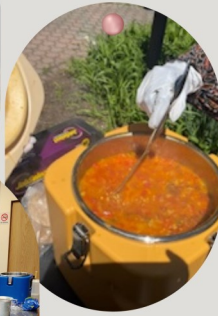


Soup & Sandwich Thursdays in Clee Park - a First Church Ministry



We love, because
he first loved us

1 JOHN 4



Sunday, April 28, 2024

**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: *Anonymous First Church ministry
partner*

The morning sun that awakens me
Makes me thankful I can see,
Loved ones' voices each so dear
Make me thankful that I can hear.
Health and strength that get me through
Makes me thankful for what I can do.
Faith that does not let me stray
Makes me thankful for each day.
A mind that reasons and is fair
Makes me thankful that I care.
A heart that accepts help from above
Makes me thankful for God's love. Amen

Prelude

AZMON

Fedak/Rutz

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.** II Corinthians 13:14

Call to Worship: *From John 15:5, 12, 16 from worshipcalls.com*

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

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the vine and you are the branches...Abide in me as I abide in you."

People: We come to affirm and renew our connection with the life-giving Vine.

Leader: Jesus said, "I appointed you to go and bear fruit...fruit that will last."

People: We want to be fruitful, productive people whose lives make a difference.

Leader: Jesus said, This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you."

People: Christ you are the vine. We are the branches. We will bear your fruit. We will abide in your love and share it!

***Opening Hymn** *"O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing"* *(see insert)*

Prayer of Confession: *by Rev. Julie Jensen, First Presbyterian Church, Cartersville, GA*

God of compassion and mercy, you sent us your Son as the savior of the world, and told us to love one another as much as you loved us. Yet, we struggle to love one another. We have a hard time loving those who are not like us, who disagree with us, or who ask us to face truths about ourselves. You told us to love one another, because love is from God. And we often do not love those we think are dirty, hungry, lost, or undesirable. It is written that perfect love casts out fear, and yet we are afraid. Afraid for our safety, our wallets, and how others perceive us. Forgive us, God, and show us how to love the way you command us to love. Release us from our judgment and our fear. Open our hearts so that they might receive your perfect love for us, and in turn offer it to the world.

Silent confession

Assurance of Pardon:

Friends, the good news is this: love is from God, and we are loved by God. God sent Christ into the world to atone for our sins, and in Christ, we are forgiven.

***Passing the Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us spend a few moments greeting one another.

Children's Message & Blessing

Prayer for Illumination *Please sing*

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me. Mold me. Fill me. Use me. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me!

Scripture Reading 1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Text John 15:1-11

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon Is Love the Fruit We Are Called to Bear?

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of Response** “*God Is Love, Let Heaven Adore Him*” (see insert)

Profession of Faith excerpt from the *Belgic Confession, Article 29: Marks of the True Church*

As for those who can belong to the church, we can recognize them by the distinguishing marks of Christians: namely by faith, and by their fleeing from sin and pursuing righteousness, once they have received the one and only Savior, Jesus Christ.

They love the true God and their neighbors, without turning to the right or left, and they crucify the flesh and its works. Though great weakness remains in them, they fight against it by the Spirit all the days of their lives, appealing constantly to the blood, suffering, death, and obedience of the Lord Jesus, in whom they have forgiveness of their sins, through faith in Christ.

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

“Blessed Jesu, We Are Here”

G. Walther

***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.**

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 “They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love”** (see insert)

***Charge & Blessing**

Postlude

“ST. DENIO”

E. Beal

Note: Join us this afternoon at 3 pm for the Service of Installation of Rev. Trey Tirpak as Associate Minister of The First Church in Albany.

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston
Liturgist: Rev. Trey Tirpak
Organist: Iteke Prins
Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss and
Stephen Reohr

*CCLI License #463379;
One License #A-700689*

A Service of *Installation*
Rev. Trey Tirpak, as Associate Minister

**Sunday,
April 28, 2024
at 3pm
at
the First Church
in Albany**

The Classis of Albany and the First Church in Albany will gather to formally install Rev. Trey Tirpak to be First Church's Associate Minister. Food and fellowship to follow. All are welcome!

firstchurchinalbany.org

The First Church in Albany, 110 North Pearl St., Albany NY 12207 518-463-4449

PRAYERS, CONCERNS & JOYS

- For Rev. Trey Tirpak, as he embarks on his next chapter at First Church
- For Kathy Stallmer, friend of Ned and Kathie Monthie, for comfort on her health journey
- For Susan, Ruth Pagerey's sister-in-law with a broken hip
- For Renee Darcy, friend and neighbor of Shirley Bone, going through major surgery. *(with permission)*
- Brett, friend of Revd Trey.
- Rob Van Dyke, friend of Doug and Jill Persons with medical concerns.
- Jill Persons and Jill's mother in England who is transitioning to nursing care.
- Michelle Williams, for recovery
- Matt, cousin of Barb Andrews with health issues
- Rev. Dr. Mashona as she continues her health journey
- Mia Westman
- Becky Gardner
- Ginny Giguere
- Donna Schultz
- Jeff Curry
- Carol LaBatte
- Sam, son of Barb and Dave Andrews, with continued health
- concerns
- Jones
- Ken Lucas, friend of Philip Labatte
- For Jennifer Recene Gallagher
- Alexis Parry, niece of Cheryl Gowie
- Gail Santimaw, friend of Judith Utley-Suess
- John Utley, brother of Judith Utley-Suess
- Judith Utley-Suess, for strength
- Harold Bushnel
- Alex Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Cheryl Gowie
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Clergy, staff and leaders of the First Church in Albany
- For those dealing with climate disasters like wildfires.
- Prayers for Ukraine, Israel and Palestine and all areas of conflict across the globe. May we all remember to lead with love.
- For an end to gun violence here in Albany, in the U.S., and around the world.

If you have a concern or joy you would like to share with our church family, email office@firstchurchinalbany.org or call the office at 518-463-4449

REFORMED CHURCH CENTER



NEW BRUNSWICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

presents:

RACISM IN REFORMED CHURCH ORDER?



Presenters

Earl James

Vice President, African American Black Council, RCA

Matthew van Maastricht

Adjunct Instructor in RCA Studies, NBTS

Pastor, Altamont and Helderberg Reformed Churches

Wednesday • May 1, 2024 • 12:00-1:30 p.m. ET • Online

Wednesday • May 1, 2024 • 12:00-1:30 p.m. ET • Online



LOVE IS
ALL
AROUND

(And sometimes it is served with a ladle,
alongside some peanut butter and jelly!)

Thank you!
for a wonderful
ministry season





April 2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 	1 	2 Primary Polling Place	3 AA	4 Soup & PB&J 11:30am Potluck & First Thursday Night of Worship	5	6
7 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour Communion Sunday Crop Walk Rally 3pm	8 	9 	10 AA	11 Soup & PB&J 11:30am Potluck & First Thursday Night of Worship	12	13
14 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour Communion Sunday	15 TAX 15 Churches for Middle East Peace 6:30pm	16 	17 AA Weathervanes	18 Soup & PB&J 11:30am	19	20 Clee Park Clean Up Day 9am
21 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour 	22 	23 FOCUS Board Mtg.	24 AA Dutch Settlers Meeting 6pm	25 Soup & PB&J 11:30am	26 Castle Island Feria de Español 10am	27
28 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour Choir Rehearsal 2pm Installation of Rev. Trey Tirpak 3pm	29 	30 				

Key:



Indoor
Worship
10am



Communion
Sunday



Coffee
Hour



Pantry
9am



Centering
Prayer 12pm



Book
Study



Soup &
PB&J
11:30am



Choir
Rehearsal



Weathervanes



First Church in Albany

110 North Pearl St., Albany NY 12207

518-463-4449

www.firstchurchinalbany.org

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing 610

1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
 2 The name of Je - sus charms our fears, and
 3 Christ speaks, and lis - tening to his voice new
 4 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -
 5 To God all glo - ry, praise, and love be

dear Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
 bids our sor - rows cease, sings mu - sic in the
 life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful wak - en
 sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the
 now and ev - er given by saints be - low and

God and King, the tri - umphs of God's grace!
 sin - ner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.
 to re - joice; the poor in heart be - lieve.
 earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.
 saints a - bove, the church in earth and heaven.

SPANISH

1 *Mil voces para celebrar
 a mi Libertador,
 las glorias de su majestad,
 los triunfos de su amor.*

KOREAN

1 만 입이 내게 있으면
 그 입 다 가지고
 내 구주 주신 은총을
 늘 찬송하겠네

This text comes from an eighteen-stanza hymn the author wrote to mark the first anniversary of his life-changing conversion experience. It is now customarily the first hymn in Methodist hymnals worldwide. This tune, adapted from a German composer, is the usual North American setting.

SONG OF PRAISE

God is Love

Hymnal #379

1 God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let
 2 God is Love; and Love en - folds us, all the world in
 3 God is Love; and though with blind-ness sin af - flicts all

earth re - jice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him
 one em - brace: with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us,
 hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing - kind - ness

and ex - alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun -
 ev - ery child of ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are
 guides us through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall

da - tion, God who spread the heaven a - bove, God who breathes through
 break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that
 nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so

all cre - a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love.
 self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.
 Love for ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

They'll Know We Are Christians

The musical score is written in 2/2 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It consists of five systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "1 We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord, and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored. Refrain D^b Cm7 Fm B^bm And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our love. Fm B^bm Cm Fm Yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love." The score includes various chords such as Fm, E^b/F, Cm7, B^bm, and A^b/B^b.

1 We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord.

We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored.

Refrain D^b Cm7 Fm B^bm

And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our love.

Fm B^bm Cm Fm

Yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

- 2 We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand. 2x
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. *Refrain*
- 3 We will work with each other, we will work side by side. 2x
and we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride. *Refrain*
- 4 All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us all one. *Refrain*

Words: Peter Scholtes (b. 1938) © 1966, 1967 F.E.L. Church Publications, Ltd., assigned 1991 to Lorenz Corporation

Music (ST. BRENDAN'S 13.13.14 refrain 13.10): Peter Scholtes; arr. Dennis Fitzpatrick © 1966, 1967 F.E.L. Church Publications, Ltd., assigned 1991 to Lorenz Corporation