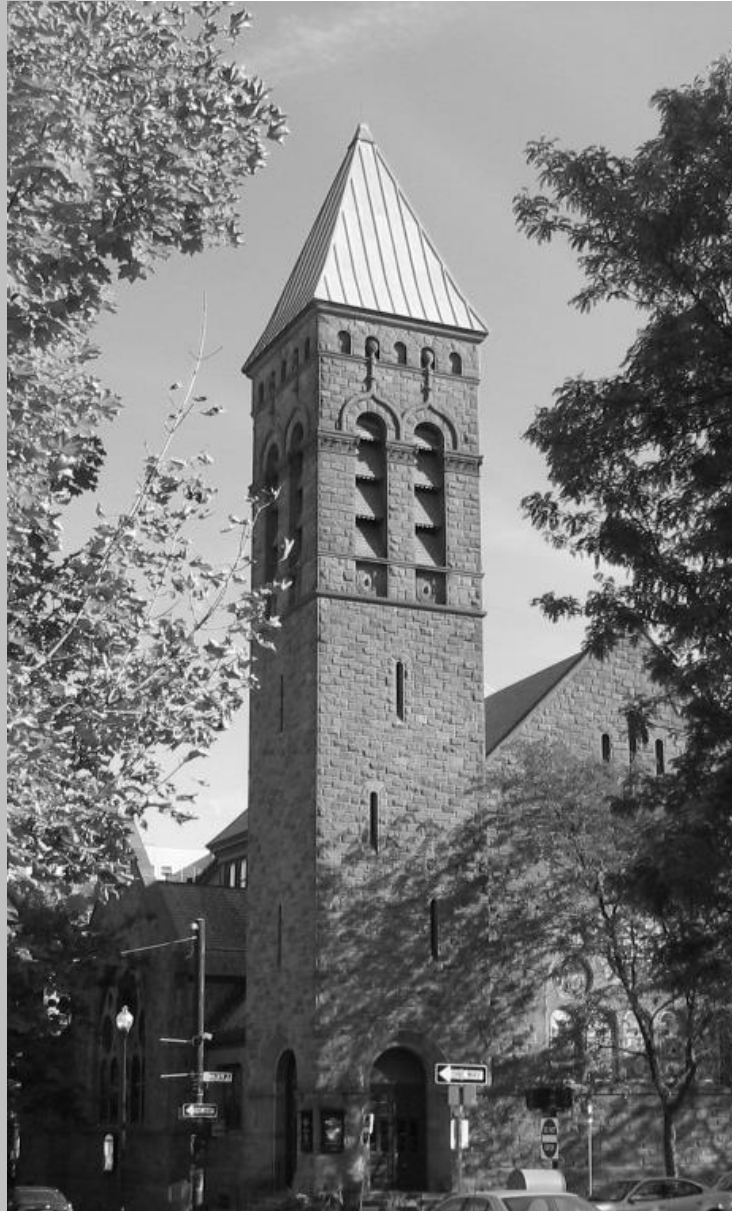


FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 28, 2024
10:30 A.M. WORSHIP



First Presbyterian Church
Albany, New York



Welcome!

Whether you are worshipping with us for the first time or have grown up here at FPC,
we are glad you have joined in worship this morning!
In addition to worship in the Sanctuary, we livestream this service on Facebook each Sunday.

The Gathering

**indicates when to rise in body or spirit*

Prelude *Andante sostenuto* from *Symphonie Gothique* C.M. Widor

Welcome & Announcements

Minute for Mission Annette Johnson

Ringing of the Bell

Choral Introit *One Household High and Low* Andrew Maxfield
First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

The dark around us, come, let us meet here together.
Members one of another, here is our holy room.

And all the earth shall sing, light, leaf, foot, hand, and wing.
Such order as we know, one household, high and low.

*Call to Worship

One: Ours is an uneven story of faith and hope and love.

**All: Our common needs and experiences bind us together. They bring
laughter and limping into relationships and keep strengthening the bonds
of faith and love where we might otherwise despair.**

One: We come, seeking an experience of the holy, finding a deeper dimension
to life in the story of God's people and experiencing that reality in our community
of faith.

**All: We seek that transcendent presence, the source of all that is, the way worthy of
our loyalty, the truth upon which we can set our hearts, and the life rooted and
over-flowing in love.**

***Hymn No. 749**

Come! Live in the Light!

WE ARE CALLED

*Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you know our hearts and minds. We are such a mixture of experiences and feelings. One day we are lost and confused, another we are confident and hopeful. We know failure and self-anger, as well as success and pride. We share high hopes and dismal results, a sense of belonging, as well as deep loneliness. Help us again to find our way, to discover the hope, the forgiveness, and the strength we need to persevere, so that we can assist, comfort, and reassure one another and the many others of our lives.

Silent prayers of personal confession may be offered.

*Kyrie Eleison No. 577

Lord, Have Mercy

KYRIE ELEISON (Reindorf)

Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

*Declaration of Forgiveness

*The Welcome and Peace

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

The congregation greets one another with words and signs of peace.

*Gloria Patri No. 581

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)

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 Word

Old Testament Lesson

Micah 6:1–8 (O.T., p. 866)

Annette Johnson


One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:25–31

Rose Hunsberger, *soprano*

(Cantor sings the refrain once then followed by the congregation)



Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. Praise the name of the Lord.

You are the theme of my praise in the full assembly: my vows will I perform in the sight of those who fear you. The poor shall eat and be satisfied: those who seek you, O Lord, shall praise you; may they be in good heart for ever. **(R)**

Let all the ends of the earth remember and turn to you, O Lord: and let all the families of the nations bow down before you. For years in the kingdom, O Lord: and you are the ruler over the nations. As for those who sleep in the grave, how shall they worship you: all those who go down into the dust, how shall they bow before you? **(R)**

But I shall live through you, and my children shall serve you: they shall tell of you to the generations that are yet to come. To a people as yet unborn they shall make known: the saving deeds you have done. **(R)**

Anthem

Declare God's Glory

Eugene Peterson

First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

Declare God's glory among the nations, God's wonders among all people.

For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised.

God is to be feared above all gods, for all the gods of the nations are idols;

But the Lord made the heavens.

Honor and majesty are before God.

Strength and beauty are in God's sanctuary.

Give unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the people,

give unto the Lord the glory due unto God's name.

Bring an offering, and come into God's courts.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;

Fear before God, all the earth.

Gospel Lesson

John 15:1–8 (N.T., p. 109)

One: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Way of Love

Eric Fagans

Our Response

*Hymn No. 70

What Does the Lord Require of You?

MOON

Prayers of the People

Lee Helsby

*There is a “Prayers of the People” book on the table in the back of the sanctuary. We encourage the congregation to write their concerns and thanksgivings in the book before the service so they can be included in the Prayers of the People. Several petitions are offered, each concluding with: O God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts

Ushers will pass the offering plates to each pew. There are also offering receptacles located in the back of the sanctuary. You may place your offering in one on the way into worship or as you leave. You may also donate online at firstpresalbany.org/donate or scan the QR code to the right (turn on your cell phone camera and hold it over this box/the QR code to donate online).



Offertory

*Cameroonian Choir
Chorus in Kenyang*

*Doxology (sung in unison)



Praise God, from whom all bless- ings flow; Praise Christ, all peo- ple here be - low; Praise



Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more; Praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

*Prayer of Dedication

The Eucharist (Thanksgiving)

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

All those, including children, who seek the way of Christ and desire fellowship in the church are invited to the Lord's Table to share in our common meal of Thanksgiving.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(prayer continues with...)

One: And now with the confidence of the children of God, we are bold to pray:

All: 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.

Breaking of the Bread and Communion of the People

The congregation is served at the front of the sanctuary, coming forward by the center aisle and returning by the side aisles. Communion is by intinction – take a piece of bread from the loaf or a piece of pita from the plate, dip it into the cup of juice, and eat. When served, you may respond by saying “Amen,” “Thanks be to God,” or another response. You may choose a sealed prepackaged communion element from one of the baskets – the ones with “GF” are gluten-free. If you prefer to receive communion in the pew, you may remain in your seat and signal an usher. Servers will bring you the elements.

Communion Music

I Know that My Redeemer Liveth

Messiah

Rose Hunsberger, *soprano*

G.F. Handel

I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.
And though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.
For now is Christ risen from the dead, the firstfruits of them that sleep.

Prayer after Communion

In gratitude, in deep gratitude, for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. So, Lord, may we live to your glory, as inhabitants of earth and citizens of your heavenly kingdom. Amen.

The Sending

*Hymn

May You Run and Not Be Weary

May you run and not be wear - y. May your heart be filled with song.—

And may the love of God con-tin - ue to give you hope and keep you strong.

— And may you run and not— be wear - y. May your life be filled with joy!

— And may the road you trav - el al - ways lead— you home.—

*Charge and Blessing

*Response by the People (*in unison*) Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Amen.

Responsive Hymn No. 546 v1 *Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing* SICILIAN MARINERS



Lord, dis - miss us — with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;



let us each, your love pos - sess - ing, tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace.



O — re - fresh us, O — re - fresh us, travel - ing through this wil - der - ness.

Postlude

Grand Chœur in G Major

Théodore Salomé

You may be seated if you wish to listen to the postlude.

Please join in Fellowship Time in Assembly Hall.

For your convenience and as an aid to your worship experience, large print hymnals are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

The music is reprinted under CCLI License #2853455 and OneLicense #A-716938.

Serving you today as Ushers and Greeters in the sanctuary are:

Diane Cornell, Susan Haney, Lee Helsby, Harriet Seeley & Alison Stonbely

Serving you today as Online Worship Assistant: Fadia Ghobrial

Serving you today as Offering Counters: Marc Boucher & Carol Green

Serving you today as Communion Servers: Paloma Luisi, Kevin Fuscus & Amy Jenal

Serving you today as Audio Visual Specialist: Dwight Cheu

Serving you on May 5 in the sanctuary is Usher/Greeter Team G:

Carol Bullard, Kathie Keck, Yousaf Mathias & Amy Robinson

Serving you on May 5 as Online Worship Assistants: Jeff & Meddy Jacques

Serving you on May 5 as Offering Counters:

John Myers & Yousaf Mathias

Serving you on May 5 as Scripture Reader and Prayer Reader:

Renee Merges & Susan Haney

Serving you on May 5 as Communion Servers:

Kendra Smith-Howard & Kevin Fuscus

Serving you on May 5 as Audio Visual Specialist: John Myers

Welcome!

First Presbyterian Church is a community for all people where apprentices of Jesus seek to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

We are called by God to envision and work toward eradicating systemic poverty, eliminating structural racism and sharing the experience of the good news of God's love, peace and joy.

Let us know you have joined us for worship by scanning this QR code.



We welcome children to our worship services. Nursery care for children ages birth through kindergarten is provided on the second floor of the Office Building. Nursery care is available from 8:45 to 12:15 and is staffed by experienced childcare providers Morgan Rosekrans and Debbie Freer.

Parking is available on Sunday mornings in Washington Park. There is also a parking lot on Washington Avenue just west of Lark Street available during church services on Sunday mornings. The church parking lot on Sunday mornings is reserved for visitors and for those who, for physical reasons, need close access to the church. Please note the spaces reserved for those with disabilities, and please do not block other cars.

We continue to livestream our Sunday worship services on Facebook.

Join in Christian Education on Sunday mornings

9:15-10:15 Education Classes

Godly Play in the Preschool Class (age 3 thru kindergarten)

Godly Play in The Upper Rooms (Grades 1–5)

Youth Education in the Youth Room (Grades 6-12)

Adult Education Class in the Rose Room and MS Teams

Announcements

We welcome to the pulpit today the Rev. Eric Fagans. He is married to Debra who is a member of First Pres, and they both are active in the life of our church.

Pastors Glenn and Miriam Lawrence Leupold are away this weekend attending the *Freedom Rising: You. Move. The World.* gathering sponsored by the Middle Collegiate Church of NYC. They will return to the office on Tuesday, April 30.

The Adult Education class on Sunday, May 5, will return to the topic of creation care.



Aging With Pride
Monthly Potluck **Sun**
May 5th 1:00pm -
3:00pm First Pres

Church. The Pride Center is excited to launch a special monthly gathering, "Aging with Pride," dedicated to LGBTQ+ seniors. This potluck event is held on the first Sunday of each month from 1-3 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. It's a wonderful opportunity for LGBTQ+ seniors to come together in a welcoming, supportive environment to share food, stories, and laughter. Why is this gathering important? As we age, connecting with others who share similar life experiences can be incredibly enriching. LGBTQ+ seniors often face unique challenges and may not have the same support networks as others. By providing a space to meet, mingle, and build friendships, we help strengthen our community and ensure that everyone feels valued, respected, and loved. Whether you're bringing a dish to share or simply bringing yourself, your presence is what matters. This event is secular and open to all LGBTQ+ seniors looking for fellowship and connection. Let's make each gathering a testament to our vibrant community spirit!

The **paraments** (the cloth on the pulpit, lectern, and communion table) and the **pastors' stoles** (the cloth around their necks) are white, because that is the liturgical color for Easter and the Easter season (3/31 – 5/12). White symbolizes days and season of joy and mark pivotal events in the life of Christ.

Library-on-a-Cart! FPC's Library-on-a-Cart will be in Assembly Hall! The Christian Education Committee has been sorting and cataloging some of the newer books in the church's adult library,



and we would like to make them more accessible to members and friends. We have some great offerings in the areas of Bible study, theology, sermon collections, spiritual practices, lifespan, social theology (including anti-racism), memoir—and more! The committee plans to add gradually to the collection, and we welcome suggestions of titles from other committees and individuals. Our newest acquisition is a set of very accessible Gospel commentaries by New Testament scholar N.T. Wright. After you get a cup of coffee and greet some old and new friends, stop by the cart and see if there's a book that you'd like to sign out.

Each month the **FOCUS Food Pantry** requests items from its member churches. The donation for FPC for May is bar soap. All items must be new and unopened. Please leave donations in the box in Assembly Hall. Questions? Call Susan Sneeringer at 518-496-4793.

With Great Appreciation



Bob Stevens has served as Chairperson of the Endowment Subcommittee for over 20 years and been a part of this group for over 30 years. This month he hands the chair responsibilities to Dwight Cheu. Fortunately with Bob's history and knowledge, he will remain on the subcommittee. First Presbyterian has been well-served by Bob, and we extend our gratitude for his ministry. The next time you see or speak to Bob, please add your own expression of gratitude and thank him for his many faithful years of service to First Pres.



Bob & Linda Stevens with 2 of their grandchildren ushering on Easter Sunday

the Festival Celebration Choir presents

Stronger Together



the 2024 Spring Concert

with Special Guests:

Albany Gay Men's Chorus

Sunday, May 19, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church-Albany
362 State Street, Albany

Julie Panke, Director
Daniel White, Assistant Director & Accompanist



Admission:
General Admission - \$20
Children 12 and under - Free

First Fridays at First Presbyterian

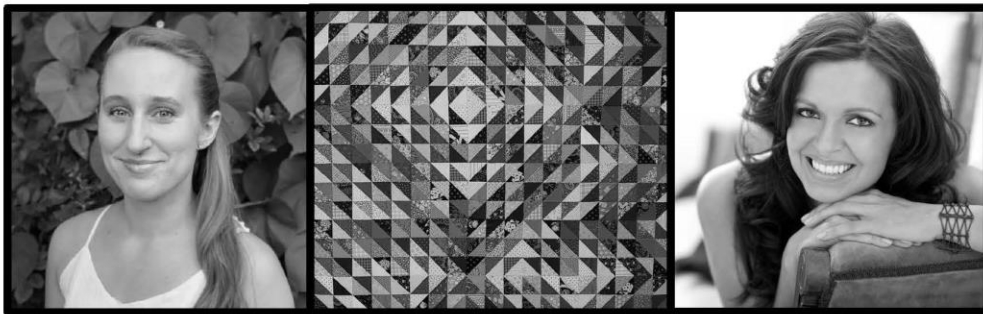
An Experience of Visual and Musical Art

Friday, May 3

Eternal Sunset: An Art Song Recital

Dawn Pierce, Mezzo-Soprano

Maria Rabbia, Collaborative Pianist



In the Gallery:

Artwork and Handmade Quilts

by Denise Higgins

6:00 pm Concert

Gallery hours: 5:30 ~ 8:00 pm

1st Presbyterian Church, 362 State Street, Albany



First Presbyterian
announces



Inquirer's Classes

Have you been worshipping at First Pres?
Interested in learning about becoming a member?
If so, plan to attend two Inquirer's Classes
on Sundays, May 5 and 12, from 9:15-10:15 in the library.
Come explore with Pastor Miriam church membership
and your hopes and dreams for where
you can serve God.

If you have any questions, contact Miriam at the church
(mleupold@firstpresalbany.org or 518-449-7332).





The CROP Hunger Walk is Coming Soon and We Need YOU!

Please Join the FPC Action Care Team

Are you looking for a way to fight food insecurity and hunger right here in the Capital Region AND across the world? We have an opportunity for you: lace up those walking shoes and join the Outreach & Mission Committee at this year's CROP Hunger Walk! The CROP Walk is a great way to join with other people who care deeply about one of the most basic human rights: adequate and nourishing food.

When: May 5, 2024 at 1:30 pm

Where: Walk starts & ends at St. Paul's Episcopal, 21 Hackett Blvd., Albany (NEW location!) There are both 1 mile and 2 mile walk options. Families are welcome and encouraged!

Why: To raise funds to fight food insecurity and hunger!

How: Join the First Pres Action Care Team as a walker or a donor today!

Bonus: Volunteers who join our First Pres walking team will get one of the (new!) First Pres T-shirts featuring our new logo.

For many people in the Capital Region, hunger is a daily part of their lives. They patch together food sources for themselves and their families and are constantly thinking about whether there will be enough food to last the week.

The CROP Hunger Walk does two important things:

- **Raises the Profile of the Issue** – When a lot of people show up for the CROP Hunger Walk, it demonstrates to government and community leaders that there is a significant concern about food insecurity. We need a strong turnout so that leaders see that our residents want a long-term solution to the problem of hunger in our communities!
- **Raises Funds to Fight Hunger** – The CROP Hunger Walk raises funds that provide quality, nutritious food to our hungry neighbors both here in the Capital Region and throughout the world.

Please sign up (link in eblast) to join the First Pres Action Care Team as a walker or a donor during coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

YOUTH SERVICE TRIP- AUG 11-17, 2024 MAINE



MATE's Housing Ministry helps community members in Central Western Maine stay in their homes by conducting critical home repairs they otherwise could not afford.

We BUILD Lives! missionattheeastward.org/mhm/



CHECK OUT OUR PARTNER

COSTS

- **Youth's Family pays one third** (\$160-\$200 depending on our registration numbers)
- \$50 Deposit to register
- **Youth Fundraise one third**
- **FPC's Youth Budget covers one third**
- ****further Financial assistance is available****



REGISTER NOW



bit.ly/Register2024Trip

518-810-3158 mdowellbaum@firstpresalbany.org

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Sunday, April 28	11:45 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	12:30 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Monday	7:00 p.m.	<i>Festival Celebration Choir Rehearsal</i>
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Christian Education Committee meeting
Wednesday	2:30 p.m.	Marketing Team meeting
Thursday	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	<i>WPNA meeting</i>
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Friday	5:30 p.m.	First Friday Gallery
	6:00 p.m.	First Friday Concert
Next Sunday, May 5	9:15 a.m.	Preschool Education
	9:15 a.m.	Children's Education
	9:15 a.m.	Youth Education
	9:15 a.m.	Adult Education
	9:15 a.m.	Inquirer's Class
	9:30 a.m.	Soloist/ Choir Rehearsal
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service in the sanctuary and livestreaming on Facebook
	11:45 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	12:30 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	1:00 p.m.	Aging with Pride Potluck
1:30 p.m.	CROP Walk	

Glenn D. Leupold, Co-Pastor
Michael C. Lister, Director of Music
Molly Dowell Baum, Youth Director



Miriam Lawrence Leupold, Co-Pastor
Trevor Kahlbaugh, Organist
Jamie Mamone, Office Administrator
Fred Bohrer, FOCUS Exec. Dir.

362 State Street, Albany, New York 12210
518-449-7332 Fax: 518-472-0449

E-mail address: info@firstpresalbany.org



Website: firstpresalbany.org

Visit us on Facebook! If you see something you like, share it!

***Hymn No. 749**

Come! Live in the Light!

WE ARE CALLED



1. Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the
2. Come! O - pen your heart! Show your mer - cy to
3. Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when



love of the Lord! We are called to be light for the
all those in fear! We are called to be hope for the
all will be one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each



king - dom, to live in the free - dom of the ci - ty of God.
hope - less so hat - red and vio - lence will be no more.
oth - er as sis - ters and bro - thers u - ni - ted in love.



We are called to act with jus-tice: we are called to love ten - der - ly;



we are called to serve one an - oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

***Hymn No. 70**

What Does the Lord Require of You?

MOON

1
What does the Lord re - quire of you?

2
Jus - tice, kind - ness,

3
To seek jus - tice and love kind - ness

What does the Lord re - quire of you?

walk hum - bly with your God.

and walk hum - bly with your God.

The three melodic phrases may be sung consecutively, as a canon, or in any combination.