



# First Presbyterian Church of Albany

BRINGING THE LIGHT OF FAITH TO ALL

**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost • June 16, 2024 • 9:30am Worship**



# Welcome!

Whether you are worshipping with us for the first time or have grown up here at FPC,  
we are glad you are worshipping here this morning!

## The Gathering

*\*indicates when to rise in body or spirit*

### Prelude

*Suite in E-flat for Harmonium or organ*  
Gordon Hibberd, *guest organist*

Cesar Franck

### Welcome & Announcements

### Ringing of the Bell

#### \*Call to Worship

One: Some look to technology or power to bring them salvation,

**All: but we look to God.**

One: Some look to quantity or efficiency as signs of success,

**All: but we look to God.**

One: For God has made us whole.

**All: At the works of God's hands, we sing for joy!**

#### \*Hymn No. 663

*Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun*

MORNING HYMN

#### \*Prayer of Confession


**Holy God, you are a blessing to all people yet we choose sides and pit "us" against "them." Forgive our divisiveness. Forgive our exclusion. Forgive the ways we fail to seek and share your abundance. Help us build the Beloved Community you desire for us, where all your children may live in peace. Amen.**

*Silent prayers of personal confession may be offered.*

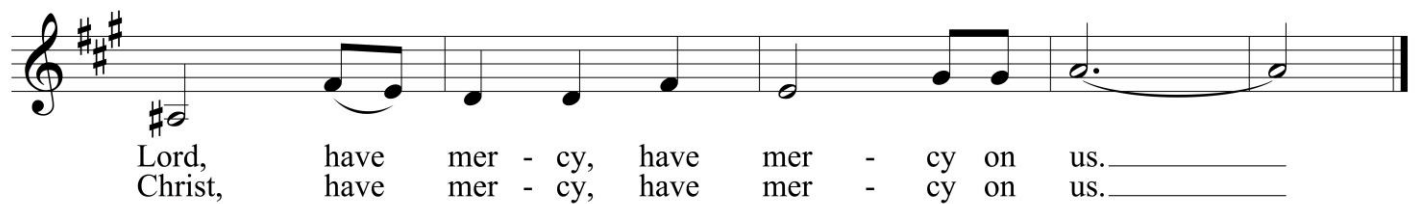
**\*Kyrie Eleison No. 578**

*O Lord, Have Mercy*

ORÉ PORIAJÚ VEREKÓ



O Lord, have mer - cy; O Lord, have mer - cy; O  
O Christ, have mer - cy; O Christ, have mer - cy; O



Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us. \_\_\_\_\_  
Christ, have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us. \_\_\_\_\_

**\*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. 585**

*Glory to God*

MACHU-PICHU



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry in the high-est. Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God,



glo-ry to Christ Je-sus. Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to the Spi-rit. To God be



glo-ry for-ev-er! To God be glo-ry for-ev-er! Al-le-lu-ia, A - men! Al-le-lu-ia, A - men!



Al-le-lu-ia, A - men! Al-le-lu-ia, A - men! Al-le-lu-ia, A - men! Al-le-lu-ia, A-men! \_\_\_\_\_

# The Sacrament of Baptism

## Words Concerning Baptism

### Presentation of the Candidate

Question to the congregation:

One: Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Veronica by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging her to know and follow Christ and to be a faithful member of his church?

**All: We do**

### Profession of Faith

One: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

One: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**All: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

One: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**All: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Thanksgiving Over the Water

### The Baptism

#### Welcome

One: Veronica has been received into the one holy catholic and apostolic church through baptism. God has made her a member of the household of God, to share with us in the priesthood of Christ. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**All: With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ's Church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ.**

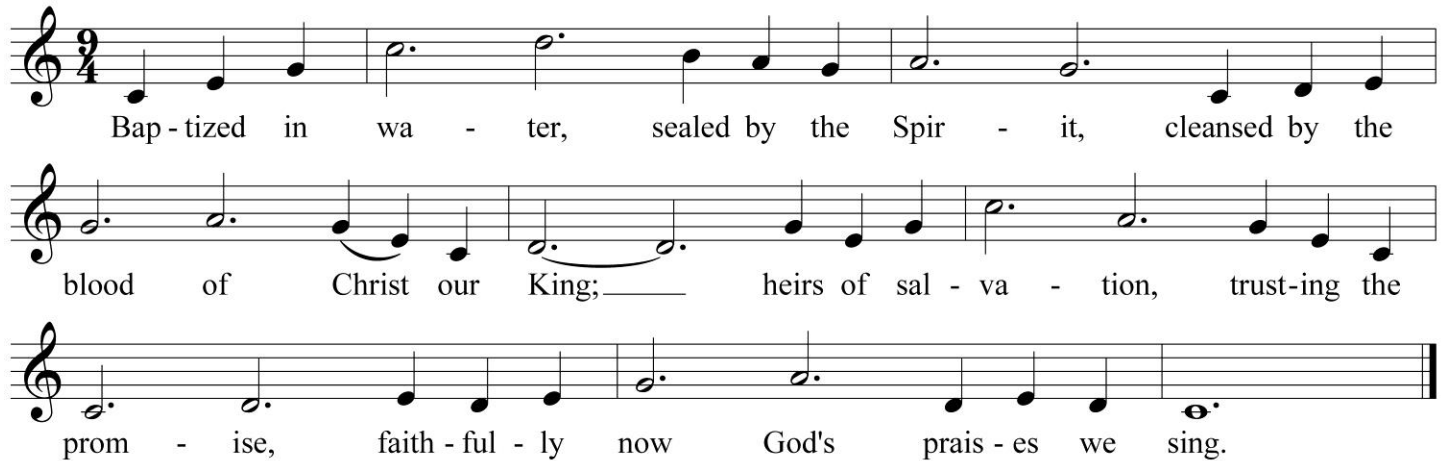
One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## Hymn of Welcome No. 482

*Baptized in Water*

BUNESSAN



Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the  
blood of Christ our King; heirs of sal - va - tion, trust-ing the  
prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.

## The Word

**Old Testament Lesson** Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 (O.T., p. 548-549)

Carol Bullard

One: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Lesson** Mark 4:26-34 (N.T., pp. 38-39)

One: The gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise be to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

Miriam Lawrence Leupold

## Our Response

**\*Hymn No. 684**

*Faith Begins by Letting Go*

LUX PRIMA

**Prayers of the People**

Ellen Eisenbraun

*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 <https://firstpresalbany.org/give/> or scan the QR code to the right.*

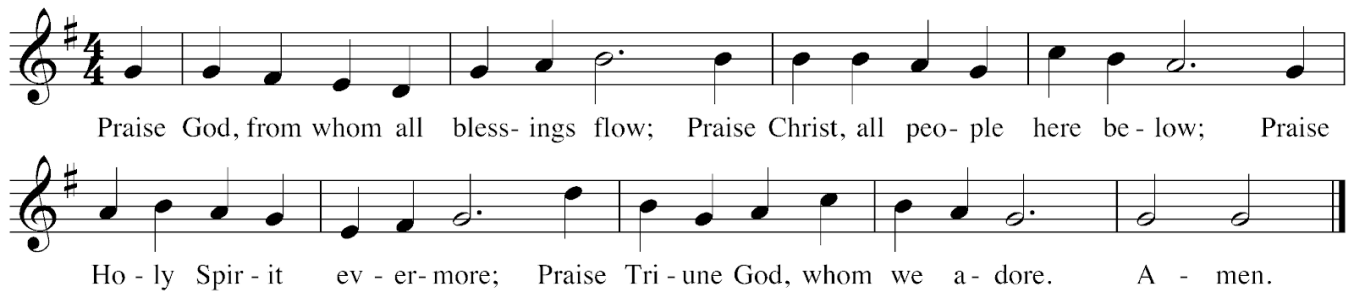


## Offertory

*Cello Suite No.1 in G major, Prélude*

Johann Sebastian Bach

## \*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**

*Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

Berthold Tours

*Daniel Hoke, baritone*

Jesus, Lover of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly,  
while the gath'ring waters roll, while the tempest still is high,  
hide me, O my Savior, hide, till the storm of life be past;  
safe into the haven guide, O receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none, hangs my helpless soul on thee;  
leave me not alone, still support and comfort me.  
All my trust on thee is stayed, all my help from thee I bring;  
cover my defenceless head with the shadow of thy wing.

Plenteous grace with thee is found, grace to cleanse from ev'ry sin,  
let the healing streams abound, make and keep me pure within,  
thou of life the fountain art, freely let me take of thee;  
spring thou up within my heart, rise to all eternity.

## Prayer after Communion

**Gracious God, you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. You have fed us with the bread of life, and renewed us for your service. We give ourselves to you, and ask that our daily living may be part of the life of your kin-dom. May our love be your love reaching out into the life of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Sending

**\*Hymn No. 36**

*For the Fruit of all Creation*

AR HYD Y NOS

**\*Charge and Blessing**

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

**\*Responsive Hymn No. 541 v.1** *God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

RANDOLPH



**Postlude**

*A Fuge or Voluntary*  
Gordon Hibberd, *guest organist*

William Selby

*You may be seated if you wish to listen to the postlude.  
Please come to Assembly Hall for Fellowship Time.*

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

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



## **All are Welcome in this Place!**

New faces and voices are always welcome and add to the spirit of our worship, education, mission and fellowship. Let us know you worshipped with us by either filling in the yellow card in the pew in front of you or by scanning the QR code. Pastors Miriam & Glenn use email addresses to share congregational email and important announcements about the life of the church.



### **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.

**We welcome children to our worship services.** Nursery care for children ages birth through kindergarten is provided on the second floor of the Christian Education Building. Nursery care is available from 9:10am to 11:10am 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.**

### **Christian Education on Sunday mornings will resume September 15**

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

**Receiving the sacrament of baptism today** is Veronica Cragin Brown, daughter of Bridgid and Jace Brown and sister of Hugh Brown.

**The flowers in the Sanctuary** are given by Heid Iyok in memory of her father Daniel Iyok who pass away on Father's Day 22 years ago.

**The paraments** (the cloth on the communion table) and the pastors' stoles (the cloth around their necks) are rainbow to celebrate Pride month.

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

## June 20

Come  
and  
walk

THE  
LABYRINTH  
at First Presbyterian  
Church

Monthly  
every  
3rd Thursday

11am-2pm  
& 5-7pm

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

**Sunday, June 16** 10:45 am Sundaes Sunday & Fellowship Time

**Tuesday** 7:00 pm Session meeting

**Wednesday** Office Closed

**Thursday** 11:00 am Labyrinth Monthly Walk  
5:00 pm Labyrinth Monthly Walk

**Friday** 6:00 pm Barbershop Quartet Concert

**Next Sunday, June 23** 9:30 am Worship Service in the sanctuary and livestreaming on Facebook and YouTube  
10:45 am Fellowship Time

# Sundaes Sunday is today!

## Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup>

**What:** A special fellowship hour with make-your-own ice cream sundaes brought to you by the Outreach & Mission Committee!

**When:** Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup> immediately after worship

**Why:** To help our friends at Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless (IPH), and to enjoy eating ice cream sundaes together!

**Cost:** One clean, gently used or new men's clothing item  
Yup! A clothing item! That's your ticket for the ice cream social!\*

*\* Cash donations will also be accepted—these will be used to purchase underwear and socks or other needed items.*



Presents:

# The Songs We Sing

**SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024 | 7 P.M.**  
ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH | 21 HACKETT BLVD., ALBANY, NY

**SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2024 | 3 P.M.**  
SLOC MUSICAL THEATER | 427 FRANKLIN ST., SCHENECTADY, NY

Join us as AGMC performs a selection of uplifting and triumphant ensembles from different popular composers and musicals.

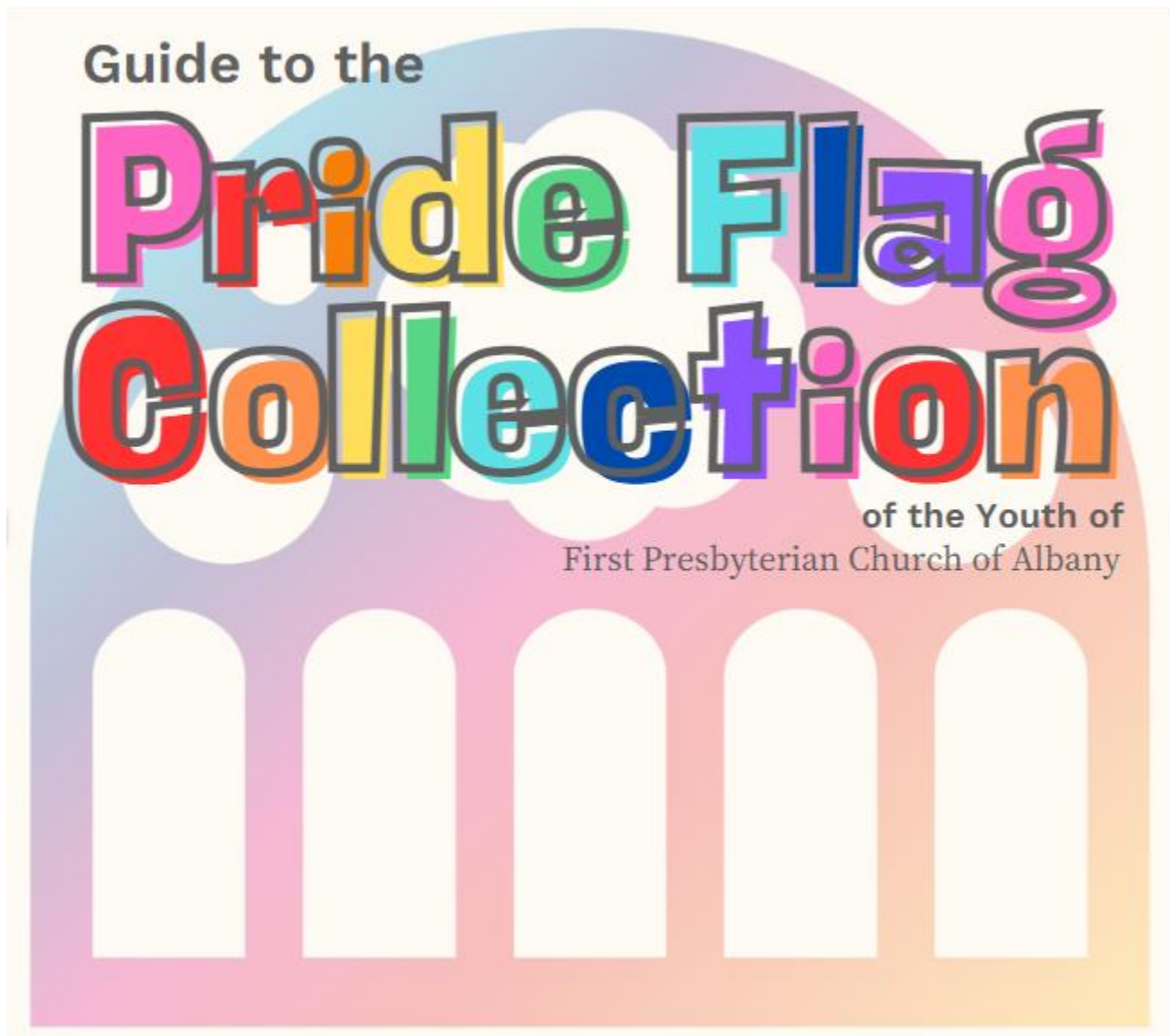
*A portion of proceeds benefitting  
St. Anne Institute's Runaway and  
Homeless Youth Shelter*

St. Anne  
Institute

Visit our website for  
more information and  
to purchase tickets.



[www.albanygmc.org](http://www.albanygmc.org)



Pride Flag Collection in Assembly Hall: More information can be found in the booklets online ([https://www.canva.com/design/DAGHZBUJqT4/5PvB-j9Lu7GHGPYbxVyt6A/view?utm\\_content=DAGHZBUJqT4&utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_medium=link&utm\\_source=editor](https://www.canva.com/design/DAGHZBUJqT4/5PvB-j9Lu7GHGPYbxVyt6A/view?utm_content=DAGHZBUJqT4&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=editor)) or available in Assembly Hall, or by reading the book that sparked this collection: *The Big Book of Pride Flags*, by Jessica Kingsley

*After seasons of lament and hope, the theme of General Assembly 226 – Live into Hope – is a charge for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as we continue in a time of deep questions about the shape and future of Christ’s church. This summer’s GA, which will address some of those questions, will be held both online and in person in Salt Lake City, Utah.*

# LIVE INTO HOPE

## ► Virtual and In-Person

Committee meetings, Tuesday, June 25 - Thursday, June 27, will be online, and while the committee structure has been set, post-pandemic GA continues to evolve. GA226 will mark the absence of an exhibit hall, which had served as a gathering place for conference attendees and a space for ministries to offer education on their areas. There will, however, be opportunities in Salt Lake City to meet denominational agencies.



Also different for the 226th: The Hands and Feet Initiative, which began as a (then unnamed) service project in 2016 by the National Hispanic/Latino-a Presbyterian Caucus at the 222nd GA and expanded during J. Herbert Nelson’s time as stated clerk, will not be an organized, denominational event. Instead, GA attendees are encouraged to worship on Sunday, June 30, with one of the PC(USA) churches in the Salt Lake City area, and the Presbytery of Utah has extended an invitation to all in attendance.

Plenary, in-person meetings begin on July 1.

## ► Stated Clerk Nominee: The Rev. Jihyun Oh

The General Assembly Nominating Committee has selected Jihyun Oh as its nominee for stated clerk. Oh, who was born in South Korea and reared in Kansas, would be the first Korean American to serve in the denomination’s highest ecclesial office. Commissioners will vote on Oh’s nomination during the conference.

## ► Co-moderators:

Four are standing as GA co-moderator nominees. The Rev. CeCe Armstrong and Rev. Tony Larson, both of South Carolina, are standing together, and Rev. Dr. Marian McClure Taylor of Kentucky will stand with the Rev. Danny Morales of Florida. The election for co-moderators will be at 8 p.m. on Sunday, June 30, in Salt Lake City. It also can be viewed online.

## ► Flexibility for small churches

Several overtures could have a direct effect on the lives of small congregations. Curriculum development, the roles of commissioned pastors and alternative ways for worshiping communities to be formed, supervised and led will be considered.

## ► Unification of OGA and PMA

The Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency – which handle the ecclesiastical (OGA) and the mission (PMA), respectively – are about to become one, with commissioners at GA approving one unified budget instead of two. The Unification Commission will make a report on progress to-date. The commission has already combined PMA’s and OGA’s communication offices.



## ► Sexual orientation, gender identity protections

GA will consider amending the *Book of Order* to add sexual orientation and gender identity to the categories against which the denomination does not discriminate. The so-called “Olympia overture,” which originated from the Olympia (Washington) Presbytery, also makes reference to pastoral ordination and installation procedures that could determine a “candidate’s ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation ...”

## ► Fossil fuels and climate justice

The Environmental and Climate Justice committee will consider an overture [ENV-02] that recommends adding any publicly traded companies “whose primary source of income is derived from the exploration, development and production of fossil fuels are to be placed on the General Assembly’s list of prohibited securities” and urges the denomination and its members to seek investment in renewable energy enterprises. ENV-01 recommends adopting a “Sustainable Peace Pledge” with a focus on long-term strategy to mitigate the effect of climate change, and ENV-03 encourages quick action on plastic pollution mitigation. GA will consider a study on the impact of lithium mining, with particular attention to activities on Indigenous lands.

## ► Israel/Palestine

OVT-33 asks the GA to direct the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) to begin “focused engagement” with General Electric (GE) and another company involved in law enforcement contracts along the U.S.-Mexico border. Pittsburgh Presbytery points to GE’s production of military aircraft engines that have been used by Israeli military to attack Gaza recently and as far back as 2008.

OVT-38 would expand a 2004 resolution confronting Christian Zionism. In a recommendation: GA will be asked to consider removing Hewlett-Packard, Inc., from the 2025 Divestment/Proscription list of MRTI.

## ► Prison Justice

The General Assembly has been asked to support removal of a loophole in the U.S. Constitution that permits slavery and involuntary servitude, saying the “Punishment Clause” and its values are contrary to the teachings of Scripture and contrary to the values and philosophies of liberty and human rights set forth in the tenets of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



### ► Stay informed on updates from GA:

Visit our **website**:  
[pres-outlook.org](https://pres-outlook.org)

Follow us on **social**:  
**INSTAGRAM:**  
@presoutlook/instagram  
**FACEBOOK:** Presbyterian Outlook  
**X:** @presoutlook

Would you like **text/SMS messages** with news from GA?  
Scan the QR code  
or follow this link:  
<https://pres-outlook.org/text/>



## **Serving you on Sunday, June 16**

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: Carol Bullard, Kathie Keck, Jessica Mathias  
& Amy Jenal

Online Worship Assistant: Alison Stonbely

Scripture Reader: Carol Bullard

Prayer Reader: Ellen Eisenbraun

Communion Servers: David Takor & Roger Green

Offering Counters: Marc Boucher & Ron Geuther

Audio Visual Specialist: Bruce Brynolfson

## **Serving you on Sunday, June 23**

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: Joanna Gascoyne, Richard Gascoyne, David Hannay  
& Amy Jenal

Online Worship Assistant: Fadia Ghobrial

Scripture Reader: Kendra Smith-Howard

Prayer Reader: Lee Helsby

Communion Servers: Kathie Keck & Lillie McLaughlin

Offering Counters: Amy Robinson & Laura Schultz

Audio Visual Specialist: Dwight Cheu



**First Presbyterian**  
Church of Albany

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[firstpresalbany.org](http://firstpresalbany.org)

*Glenn D. Leupold, Co-Pastor • Miriam Lawrence Leupold, Co-Pastor • Michael C. Lister, Director of Music  
Trevor Kahlbaugh, Organist • Molly Dowell Baum, Youth Director • Jamie Mamone, Office Administrator  
Fred Boehrer, FOCUS Exec. Dir.*



Check out our socials!



**\*Hymn No. 663**

*Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun*

MORNING HYMN

1 A - wake, my soul, and with the sun your dai - ly  
2 Lord, I my vows to you re - new. Dis - perse my  
3 Di - rect, con - trol, sug - gest, this day, all I de -

stage of du - ty run; shake off dull sloth, and  
sins as morn - ing dew; guard my first springs of  
sign or do or say, that all my powers, with

joy - ful rise to pay your morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
thought and will, and with your - self my spir - it fill.  
all their might, in your sole glo - ry may u - nite.

**\*Hymn No. 684**

*Faith Begins by Letting Go*

LUX PRIMA

1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what  
2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - ory's  
3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en -

had seemed sure, tak - ing risks and press - ing on,  
roots a - live so that hope may bear its fruit;  
larg - ing hearts, shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer,

though the way feels less se - cure: pil - grim - age both  
prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive, not through mer - it  
bind - ing up the bro - ken parts; till we find the

right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.  
we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.  
com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

**\*Hymn No. 36**

*For the Fruit of all Creation*

AR HYD Y NOS



1. For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
2. In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.  
3. For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.  
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
In our world-wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con-found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe-keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.  
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.