



First Presbyterian Church of Albany

BRINGING THE LIGHT OF FAITH TO ALL

More Light Sunday • June 2, 2024 • 10:30am 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

Meditation

Welcome & Announcements

Minute for Ministry

David Hinchey

Ringing of the Bell

***Call to Worship**

One: The God of all time is the source of life.

All: In the beginning God made us, and called us beloved.

One: When we forget how to love,

All: God reminds us we are beloved.

One: When the powers of the world try to oppress us,

All: we remember God's name is beloved.

One: Even when our siblings in faith condemn us,

All: God claims us, and calls us beloved.

One: With gratitude for God's love, let us sing praises and offer God our worship.

***Hymn No. 301**

Let Us Build a House

TWO OAKS

***Prayer of Confession**

Divine creator, we come before you with humble hearts, acknowledging our shortcomings and seeking forgiveness. We confess that we have subjected others to the kind of rejection and misunderstanding that Jesus experienced. We try to control the paths of those we love, deem them "out of their minds" or unworthy of acceptance when they veer from our expectations for how they should be or whom they should love. Forgive us for those times when we have believed what others say about us rather than what you promise. Forgive us for

those times when we have caused others to doubt your love. Forgive us for those moments when we stand in our own way or in the way of others, dimming a God-given light, participating in the silencing of God-given voices. Forgive us for failing to offer our solidarity and support to our most marginalized siblings. Forgive us for those times we do not claim your image within us, and for not seeing it in those we meet. Henceforth, help us to live authentically and boldly as the children you created us to be.

Silent prayers of personal confession may be offered.

***Kyrie Eleison No. 551**

Lord, Have Mercy

LAND OF REST



Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

***The Welcome and Peace**

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

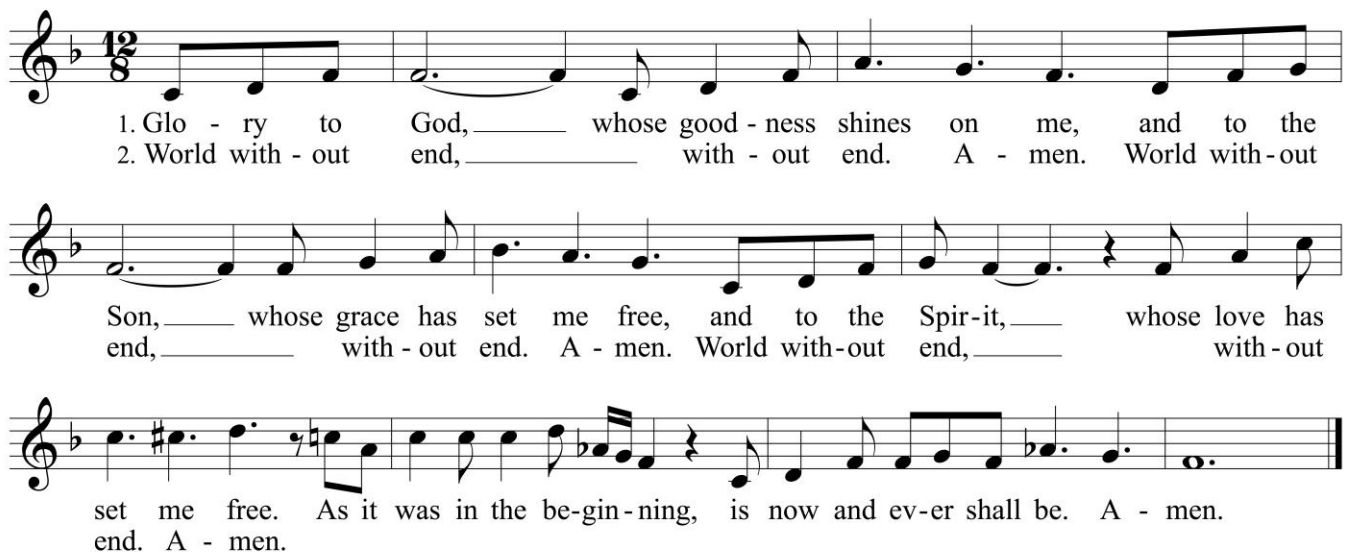
All: And also with you.

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

***Gloria Patri No. 582**

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

GLORY TO GOD (Vasile)



1. Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me, and to the end, with - out end. A - men. World with-out end, whose grace has set me free, and to the Spir-it, whose love has with - out end, set me free. As it was in the be-gin-ning, is now and ev-er shall be. A - men.

2. World with - out end, with - out end. A - men. World with-out end, with - out end, with - out end.

The Word

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 56:1-8 (O.T., p. 686)

FPC Youth

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 27:1-2, 4-6, 10-14

(O.T., pp. 503-504)

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Stars I Shall Find

David Dickau

Albany Gay Men's Chorus

There will be rest and sure stars shining
over the rooftops crowned with snow;
a reign of rest serene forgetting
and the music of stillness
Holy and low

I will make this world of my devising
out of a dream in my lonely mind.
I shall find the crystal of peace.
Above me. Stars I shall find.

New Testament Lesson

Mark 3:20-35 (N.T., pp. 37-38)

One: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Bringing the Light of Faith to All

Glenn D. Leupold

Our Response

*Hymn

More Light To Come



1. As we re - flect on our jour - ney to - geth - er, we can
2. We give thanks for our bless - ed com - mu - nion; with each
3. Yes, we stand on the should - ers of he - roes; we will



see man - y foot - prints on the path. Man - y souls, striv - ing for - ward, are
oth - er, e keep our hopes a - live. We make pro - gress with all pull to -
build on the vic - to - ries they won, and the sha - dows of doubt can - not



with us, man - y bea - comms of hope are now passed.
geth - er; when we make a new world, all can thrive.
fright - en, for we know there is more light to come!



Ev - ery day is dawn - ing bright - er and we



know there is more light to come, more light to come!

Prayers of the People

Molly Dowell Baum

*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.



Offertory*Nothin' Gonna Stumble My Feet*

Greg Gilpin

Albany Gay Men's Chorus

I've been a walking with the Lord for many a day,
 nothing gonna stumble stumble my feet,
 trying to abide in the straight and narrow way,
 nothing gonna stumble stumble my feet.

But when my time on earth is done, and I hear my name,
 oh when my time on earth is done, these weary feet are gonna run.

Chorus: No not gonna stammer, not gonna trip.
 No I'm not gonna stumble no I'm not gonna slip.
 No nothing gonna stumble stumble my feet
 when I go to walk that golden street

Now the devil is a liar, and a cheater too,
 nothing gonna stumble, stumble my feet.
 And if he gets his way, he'll make a slider out of you,
 nothing gonna stumble stumble my feet.

But if you listen for the spirit's voice in a moment of truth,
 Oh if you listen for the spirit's voice, he'll help you make the right choice.

Chorus

Not gonna waver, falter, sway or fall, not gonna stumble or slide.

***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

Shall We Gather By the River

Aaron Copland

Daniel Hoke, *baritone*

Shall we gather at the river? Where bright angel feet have trod
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God

Yes, we'll gather at the river the beautiful, the beautiful river
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God

Prayer after Communion

Lord God, even when we stray from your fold; even when we do not follow your lead; even when we enjoy being lost and apart from you; even when you call us by name and we run the other way; even in our disobedience, you set a table for us. Not knowing whether we will come, you prepare a meal for us. You call us to come and eat, and to know you once more. For your love, and the perfect grace this meal represents, we give you thanks. Amen

The Sending

*Hymn

Sing a New World



1. Sing a new world in - to be - ing, Sound a bold and hope - ful
2. Sing a new world in - to be - ing, where each gen - der, class, and
3. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where the home - less find a
4. Sing a new world in - to be - ing, join the an - cient proph - ets'



theme. Find a tune for si - lent year - ings. Lend your voice and dare to
race brings its rain - bow gifts and col - ors to God's lim - it - less em -
home. Where no child - ren ev - er hun - ger, but are filled with God's sha -
cry for a time of health and plen - ty, when all tears have been wiped



dream; dream a church where all who wor - ship find their lives and loves be -
brace. Where the lines that once di - vi - ded form in - stead the ties that
lom; where all peo - ple work for jus - tice, where all hate and ven - geance
dry; when com - pas - sion flows like wa - ters, pour - ing balm for all who



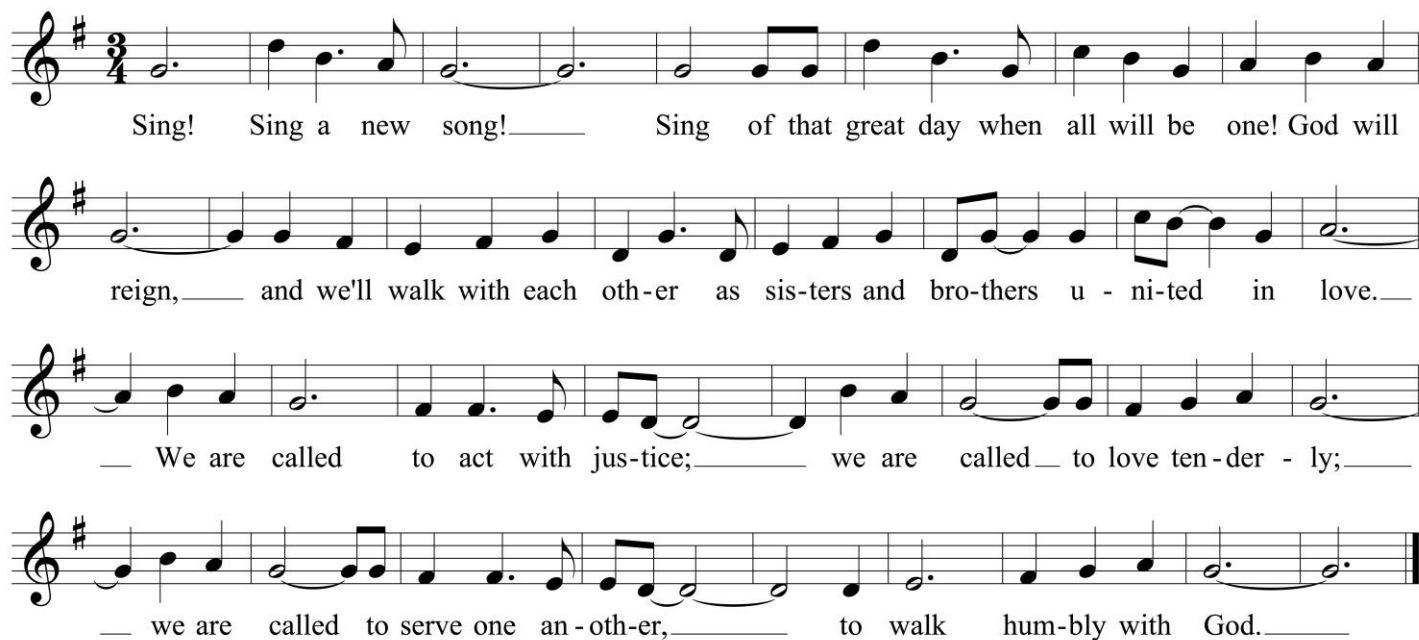
long. Sing a new world in - to be - ing, sing as Christ in - spires your song.
bind. Sing a new world in - to be - ing, risk trans - form - ing heart and mind!
cease. Sing a new world in - to be - ing, raise the har - mo - nies of peace.
grieve. Sing a new world in - to be - ing: live the prom - ise you be - lieve!

*Charge and Blessing

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

***Responsive Hymn No. 749 v.3** *Come! Live in the Light!*

WE ARE CALLED



Sing! Sing a new song!_____ Sing of that great day when all will be one! God will
reign,_____ and we'll walk with each 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._____

Postlude

Festive Trumpet Tune

David German

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.*

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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 8:45am to 12:15pm 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



First Presbyterian Church of Albany

BRINGING THE LIGHT OF FAITH TO ALL

**Today is a joyful celebration of the story of the
First Pres faith community!**

The story of First Pres is long and remarkable. We are a congregation that has lived out our faith in worship, education, and advocacy for more than 260 years. Although many within our congregation know our story very well, church leadership saw an opportunity to improve how we share our story with the wider Capital Region community.

Today we are seeing the results of many months of work to create new marketing and communication tools that tell our unique and beautiful First Pres story. Our new logo and tagline celebrate the architecture of our building and our arms wide-open welcome to all who want to help build the Kingdom of God.

After worship today you will also be introduced to our new:

- Website
- Social media platforms
- Signage
- T-shirts
- Reuseable shopping bags, and
- First Pres decals!

We are revealing all of these things on More Light Sunday because we are a light-filled congregation that values the gifts of every one of our members and friends. Thank you for celebrating with us today.

More Light Presbyterians



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS

More Light Presbyterians' mission is to center and celebrate the lives, gifts, and leadership of LGBTQIA+ people in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and beyond. We accomplish this by igniting the prophetic witness of our ministry partners and by cultivating relationships rooted in mutual accountability and care. Together, we journey toward God's promised liberation and flourishing for all creation.

Who We Are & What We Do

More Light Presbyterians engages over 230 congregations and thousands of individuals in the Presbyterian Church (USA), enabling Presbyterians to lead LGBTQIA+ service and advocacy in communities nationwide. More Light's mission has always been to empower and equip individuals and congregations to live into their welcome for LGBTQIA+ people. More Light has developed interrelated programs to move congregations along a pathway towards full inclusion, improve ministry services for LGBTQIA+ individuals in need, and expand the faith-based movement opposing discriminatory legislation.

MLP Logo



MLP's logo reflects our mission and incorporates the communion elements of bread and wine, as well as rainbow colors evocative of stained-glass church windows. These elements express the hospitality of Christ, and of the welcoming church movement, and the theology and practice of the open table. We are called together as many grains that form one bread. We share one cup.

Announcements

For this More Light Sunday, First Presbyterian is thrilled to welcome back the Albany Gay Men's Chorus and their director, Daniel White, to provide music for our service. The AGMC formed in 2008 after some of its founding members proposing the dream of starting a local gay men's choral group. The AGMC frequently supports local LGBTQ+ and LGBTQ-friendly organizations such as the Pride Center of the Capital Region, In Our Own Voices, the Damien Center, the Capital Area Council of Churches, First Presbyterian Church, and the Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN). The Chorus performs a variety of music, including but not limited to, pop, musical theater, classical, standards, and jazz. We have collaborated with various musical groups such as the Capital Pride Singers and visiting guest artists.

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.

Aging With Pride Monthly Potluck
Sun June 2nd 1:00pm - 3:00pm First



Pres Church. This is 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. 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!

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

- Sunday, June 2** 11:45 am Fellowship Time
 1:00 pm *Aging with Pride Monthly Potluck*
 5:30 pm *Albany Voices of Pride Concert*
- Tuesday** 1:00 pm Staff meeting
 5:30 pm Property Committee meeting
 5:45 pm Outreach and Mission Committee meeting
- Thursday** 6:30 pm *WPNA meeting*
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- Friday** 5:30 pm First Friday Gallery & Concert
- Next Sunday, June 9** 9:15 am Pride Parade Preparations
 9:15 am Preschool Education
 9:15 am Children's Education
 9:15 am Youth Education
 9:15 am Adult Education
 9:30 am Soloist/ Choir Rehearsal
 10:30 am Worship Service in the sanctuary and livestreaming on
 Facebook
 11:30 am Pride Parade
 11:45 am Fellowship Time

Albany Voices of Pride

Tickets \$25
Students \$20
Youth 18 &
Under Free!



Saturday, June 1st
7:00pm
First United
Presbyterian of Troy
1917 5th Ave Troy, NY
12180

Sunday, June 2nd
5:30pm
First Presbyterian
Church
362 State Street
Albany, NY 12210

ASL Interpreted!

First Fridays at First Presbyterian

An Experience of Visual and Musical Art

Friday, June 7, 2024

Albany Voices of Pride



Albany Gay Men's Chorus

In the Gallery:

Handmade Marketplace

Hosted by Tim Dumas

6:00 pm Concert

Art Gallery 5:30-8:00 pm

362 State Street, Albany NY 12210



PRIDE INTER FAITH BLESSING

JUNE 9, 2024 • 9:30AM

STATE ST & WILLET ST

Start your Pride Festival day with a moment of spiritual reflection and community blessing. Our first-ever Interfaith Pride Blessing brings together people of all faiths and backgrounds in a celebration of diversity and love. Whether you're LGBTQ+ or an ally, let's embrace the joy of Pride with open hearts and open arms. Everyone is welcome!



GET INVOLVED IN THIS AWESOME EVENT
STAND FOR EQUALITY

JUNE 9, 2024

Pride Parade



Decorating of FPC's truck/Float begins at 9:15 in
the church Parking lot
Parade steps off at 11:30 in Washington Park

Sundae Sunday is coming!

Sunday, June 16th

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

When: Sunday, June 16th 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.*

IPH offers services for individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness. In addition to an emergency shelter, it also offers permanent supportive housing for individuals with disabilities, a food pantry, a daily hot meal, washers and dryers so that unhoused individuals can do their laundry, and a clothing pantry.



Since 80% of IPH's guests identify as male, IPH has a steady need for men's seasonally appropriate clothing. Clean, well-fitting clothing can help their guests feel more confident when reconnecting with family members or interviewing for employment.

Right now, IPH has *very few* **men's clothing** items available for their guests. The staff of IPH have asked if we could help them restock their men's clothing pantry. Here are the specific items that they need:

What does IPH need?

Item	Sizes/other info
• Shirts (summer-weight fabrics)	XL - 3X
• Summer-weight Pants (shorts, jeans, slacks)	Waist 34-42
• Socks (white or dark colors)	<i>New, please</i>
• Underwear	<i>New Large - 3X</i>
• Shoes (sneakers, casual work shoes, & work boots)	(High demand for these) Sizes 9-13

Serving you on Sunday, June 2

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: FPC Youth

Online Worship Assistants: Jeff & Meddy Jacques

Communion Servers: Sue Haney & Sarah Lansaw

Offering Counters: Laura Schultz & Carol Green

Audio Visual Specialist: Dwight Cheu

Serving you on Sunday, June 9

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: Diane Cornell, Sue Haney, Lee Helsby, Harriet Seeley &

Alison Stonbely

Online Worship Assistant: Mary Rogers

Scripture Reader: Lillie McLaughlin

Prayer Reader: Peg Schalit

Communion Servers: Ellen Eisenbraun & Roseline Takor

Offering Counters: Yousaf Mathias & Leslie Cheu

Audio Visual Specialist: Kevin Fuscus



First Presbyterian
Church of Albany

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Fax: 518.472.0449 • info@firstpresalbany.com

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. 301**

Let Us Build a House

TWO OAKS



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2. Let us build a house where pro - phets speak, and words are strong and
3. Let us build a house where love is found in wat - er, wine and
4. Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
5. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vis - ions



live, A ___ place where saints and chil - dren tell how ___ hearts learn to for -
true, where all God's chil - dren dare ___ to ___ seek To ___ dream God's reign a -
wheat; A ___ ban - quet hall on ho - ly ___ ground, Where peace and jus - tice
stone to ___ heal and streng - then, serve and teach, and ___ live the ___ Word they've
heard and ___ loved and treas - ured, taught and claimed as ___ words with - in the



give. Built of hopes and dreams and vis - ions, rock of faith and vault of
new. Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness and a sym - bol of God's
meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and
known. Here the out - cast and the strang - er bear the im - age of God's
Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter, Prayers of faith and songs of



grace; here the love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
grace; here as one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
space; as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
face; let us bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
grace, Let this house pro - claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place. _____