

EVENTS FOR "CHURCH AND COMMUNITY" – Please send to the church office at fbithaca@gmail.com

HEARING DEVICES, LARGE PRINT HYMNALS and BIBLES are available from the ushers. For people with mobility issues, there is an accessible restroom, as well as a wheelchair and walker in the cloakroom. Please share your comments with us on their usefulness to you.

FBC BOTTLE RETURNS FOR THE PARABLE OF TALENTS

To support FBC recycling efforts and help the environment, FBC members and friends are urged to return deposit cans/bottles to Finger Lakes Beverage Center, 625 West State Street, Ithaca. Use the side of the building to receive 6 ¢ per can or bottle and ask the cashier to add it to First Baptist's account. Each month the church receives a check for the amount returned, which is credited to the Parable of Talents.

THE NURSERY is available for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers during the entire service with care provided by Carol Fleming or Sarah Zipfel.

SUPERVISED CHILDREN'S TABLE is available for younger children during the service. Parents are asked to use their judgment as to their child's ability to engage in quiet activities. Parents with children at the table are encouraged to sit in the section closest to it to allow children to check in with them as needed. Thank you.

This week at First Baptist

Sunday, May 14 th		Happy Mother's Day!
Monday, May 15 th	9:00 a.m.	Tweens Home School Group
	5:00 p.m.	Christian Concerns Meetings
Tuesday, May 16 th	9:00 a.m.	Tweens Home School Group
	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Transpose: Ithaca Queer Singers Alliance Rehearsal
Wednesday, May 17 th	5:30 p.m.	Worship Ministry Team
	6:00 p.m.	DCJS Board of Directors
	7:00 p.m.	Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers Rehearsal
Thursday, May 18 th	8:30 a.m.	Meditation
	10:00 a.m.	Friendship Center Lunch Making
	6:30 p.m.	FBC Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, May 20 th	5:00 p.m.	Saturday Evening Prayers
Sunday, May 21 st	10:00 a.m.	Worship

First Baptist Church, DeWitt Park – 309 North Cayuga Street

Office Hours Tuesday–Friday, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Contact us at fbithaca@gmail.com or call 607-273-5800

Visit our website at www.firstbaptistithaca.org.

American Baptist Churches ~ Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists

Ministers—All Members of the Church ~ Rev. Debbie Bennett Reynolds, Pastor

Christopher Morgan Loy, Organist/Pianist ~ Belinda Adams, Choir Director

Janice Nigro, Office Manager ~ David Hopkins, Custodian

Laura Ward, Children & Youth Ministries Coordinator

Carol Fleming, Nursery Care Giver ~ Sarah Zipfel, Sunday School Aide

Alice Damp, Minister of Music Emerita



First Baptist Church in Ithaca

Order of Worship

May 14, 2023

What does the Lord require of you?
To do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8

Invitation to Connect and Center in God's Presence

Prelude "Andante from Sonata #1" Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Core Values

First Baptist Church in Ithaca is a nurturing and inclusive community. Guided by Jesus' teachings, we strive for social and ecological justice; and embrace the Baptist Tradition of Bible, Soul, Church, and Religious freedoms.

***Hymn** "Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth" #83

Call to Worship

One: Just as God is truly our Father, so also is God truly our Mother....
Our Father wills, our Mother works, our good Lord the Holy Ghost confirms.

Many: There is no creature that is made that can know how much and how sweetly and how tenderly our Creator loves us.

~Julian of Norwich

Chant My heart is open to you. My heart is open to you, God. Come, dwell in my heart.
Come, dwell in my heart.

Moment of Silent Meditation

Lord's Prayer

Creator 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer for the Earth

We pray to you, Mother Earth, with gratitude
For your holding and sustaining love
For the air, water, and soil that feed us
For the mountains and rivers and oceans that calm our spirits
For loving and supporting all beings and all creation.

We pray to you, Mother Earth, with humility
Help us to remember our place in the great web of life
Help us to remember that we are but a part of this great web,
and that we must do our part for all life.

We pray to you, Mother Earth, for forgiveness
For our ignorance and willful disregard of the damage we have done to you, to the air and the waters, and the soil and the life of this beautiful planet.

We pray to you, Mother Earth, for fortitude
to uphold our part in reversing the damage we have caused,
for fortitude to make and sustain a commitment to do our part to heal the planet.

Mother Earth, in gratitude and humility, we ask that you hold us and sustain us,
as we strive to live in connection with you and all life. Amen ~Lucy Bunch

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayers and Pastoral Prayer

Choral Anthem "All Things Bright and Beautiful" Rutter

Young People's Time

Special Music "Chanson Triste" Tchaikovsky

Offertory "Ave Maria" Bach/Gounod

* We are portraying *Chanson Triste* (Sad Song) as wishes for the wisdom of our Mothers who are no longer with us — how we miss their advice in our daily lives.

Presenting Our Gifts "Give Thanks" #528

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Scripture John 15:1-11

"I am the true vine, and my God is the vinegrower. God removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit God 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 God is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As God 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 God's commandments and abide in God's love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."

Message "Branches on the Vine"
The Reverend Debbie Bennett Reynolds

***Hymn** "Weave" #495

Benediction

Postlude "Allegro from Sonata IV" Handel

***Please stand if you are able.**

Thanks so much to our Guest Musician: Rolfe Sokol, violinist