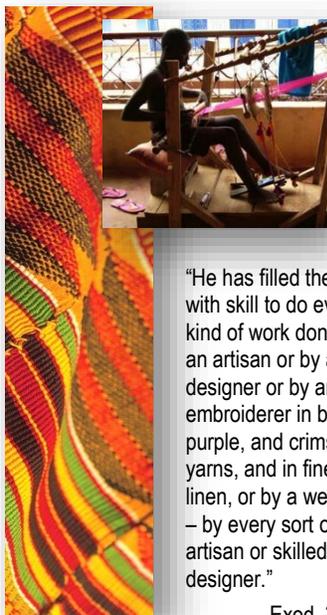




The First Presbyterian Newsletter

Volume 72, Number 6

February 2017



"He has filled them with skill to do every kind of work done by an artisan or by a designer or by an embroiderer in blue, purple, and crimson yarns, and in fine linen, or by a weaver – by every sort of artisan or skilled designer."

Exod. 35:35

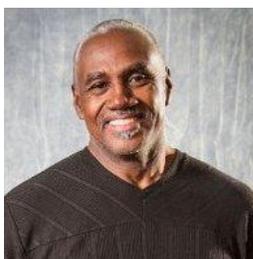
Awarding the Kente cloth has been part of our Black History Celebration for many years.

Black History Month

By Roger Green

Back in 2009, during Black History Month at FPC, I remember quite distinctly a conversation during adult education about how much longer we would be doing the event. After all, the United States had just elected a President who identified as black. Surely, the solutions to the problems of racism were just around the corner.

Unfortunately, though unsurprisingly to me, that "post-racial America" failed to materialize. The divide between races seems as sharp as ever. Happily, First Presbyterian has continued to attempt to address issues of race, class and other attributes that keep us apart.



Greg Owens

During the adult education hour on February 12, Greg Owens will be speaking on "Closing the Gaps: The Challenge of Black History Month." He is the Director of Strategic Partnerships and Collaborations at NYS Office of Children and Family Services. Since 2015, he has been serving on the NYS Board of Regents Workgroup to Improve Outcomes of Boys and Males of Color. The workgroup is charged with investigating educational and life opportunities for the targeted audience.

In This Issue

Basic Lenten Practices	2, 4
Welcome Banner	3
RISSE Donation	3
Ash Wednesday	5
HATAS	5
Labyrinth	5
Author & Illustrator Day	6
Wizard's Wardrobe	6
Labyrinth Workshop	7
Music for Holy Week	7
First Friday	7
Potluck Supper	7
Secret Santa	8
The Upper Rooms	8
Mayan Hands	8
Deacons' Doings	9
FOCUS Turns 50	9
Parking Map	10
Schedules and Calendar	10-11

Willie White, the Executive Director of AVillage, will be another Adult Education speaker. The organization's mission "is to improve the quality of life for residents of the South End and beyond, by reclaiming the neighborhoods, and by encouraging, engaging, and empowering the communities." The values of AVillage are "respect, cooperation, responsibility, and self-improvement."



Willie White

Our own Eric and Deb Fagans will lead a two-week adult ed talk on the book "Waking Up White" by Debby Irving. It would be helpful, though not required, that you try to read parts of the book before mid-February. The B³ Women's Group of the church has already started reading this well-regarded book, which will engender a lively discussion.

Rev. Victor Covington from Union Missionary Baptist Church has agreed to be the guest minister for the last Sunday in February. He is also a counselor at the Capital City Rescue Mission - New Life Program, a nine-month Christian discipleship program, where he works with a team of pastors/counselors challenging men to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and re-enter society as productive Christian men.

Continued on p. 4, **Black History Month.**

The First Presbyterian



First Presbyterian Church
Albany, NY
Founded in 1763

Dr. Miriam Lawrence Leupold
Dr. Glenn D. Leupold
Co-Pastors

Dr. Michael Lister
Director of Music

Trevor Kahlbaugh
Organist

Christy D'Ambrosio
Youth Director

Robert C. Lamar
Pastor Emeritus

Elders

Keith Barber
Carol Bullard
Gladys Crowder
David Hannay
Lee Helsby
Annette Johnson
Tara Lindsley
John Myers
Phillip Riddle
Mary Rogers
Roseline Takor

Deacons

Bob Willower
Moderator
Mirabelle Beck
Diane Cornell
Prudence Iyok
Ellen Kemp
Peter Kimuli
Judith Mark
Yousaf Mathias
Jerry Nathan
Ron Pettis
Kirsten Pruzek
Tebob Raphael
Leslie Roccario
Peg Schalit
Gail Scott
Deb Shoup
Grace White
Barbara Woodruff
Margaret Zettle

Pause Here a Moment . . .

Basic Lenten Practices

Editor's Note: The following comes from The Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the liturgical season of Lent. People in your church may be asking questions like, 'Why do Presbyterians participate in Ash Wednesday?' 'Isn't it a Roman Catholic rite?' 'What is the purpose of Lent in the Reformed tradition?'

'Are we supposed to give up something for Lent?' Congregations, increasingly called to welcome seekers and new Christians, are aware of the importance of defining the language of faith and interpreting the traditions of the community for visitors, but for the education of its own members. A basic guide to Lenten practices may be helpful.



Lent

The season of Lent leads up to the most holy of Christian days, Easter Sunday. The forty days of Lent begin Ash Wednesday and end at dusk the Saturday before Easter, not counting the Sundays in between. The Sundays during Lent, like every Sunday, are considered weekly celebrations of the resurrection. Many denominations encourage disciples to renew and strengthen their faith during Lent. Plans are made for community-wide Lenten preparation through the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible study, fasting, and service. This can include giving up a luxury or taking on a spiritual practice.

This preparation is a historical model from the early church. New believers were mentored in the Christian faith weeks before Easter, preparing for their baptisms at the Great Easter Vigil. The idea of giving something up for Lent came out of this tradition, when fasting—abstaining from food as an act of discipline in solidarity with others in the community—was used to raise one's spiritual consciousness and empty oneself before God. Fasting or giving up something for Lent can be a good way to explore a deeper expression of faith, if not adopted as a show of piety, martyrdom, or moral righteousness. Presbyterians may find it meaningful to give something up for Lent, but it is not required. Some disciples may find a more valuable spiritual exercise in taking something on during Lent—a more Christ-like attitude toward others, a humble spirit at work, or a feeling of gratitude in the midst of scarcity. Whatever spiritual disciplines and preparations are embraced during Lent, they can help us prepare for a renewed life as a disciple at the resurrection celebration at Easter.

Ash Wednesday

Reclaimed by Reformed churches in the last few decades, Ash Wednesday is the entry point for Lenten preparation. It is a service rich in ritual and symbolism. Palms waved at the previous year's Palm Sunday service are saved and burned to create ashes for the next Ash Wednesday. Participants on Ash Wednesday come forward for a minister or elder to mark their foreheads with the sign of the cross in ashes, saying the words, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return," from Genesis 3:19.

Continued on p. 4, Lenten Practices.

The First Presbyterian

First Pres Raises a New “Welcome” Banner



By Carol Bullard, Chair, Membership Committee

The Christian practice of hospitality, an important dimension of the spiritual life, has long been embraced by First Presbyterian Church. But it is not just hospitality alone that is essential. What we aspire to achieve is what Jesus himself sought to realize throughout his entire ministry: the vision of an all-inclusive community where all are welcomed, all are loved.

But how best can a church communicate this message to the outside world? While many ways come to mind, a very special opportunity came our way last December. At that time, Faithful America—the largest online community of Christians putting faith into action for social justice—offered us the chance to purchase a large-sized banner that sends a powerful message that our church stands strong in its commitment to serve *everyone*. That “everyone” means immigrants and refugees, as well as other groups of individuals whose place in our society is sometimes questioned.

Perhaps you’re thinking that we really don’t see many immigrants living in this part of the country. But that is not the case. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, between 2013 – 2014 about 22% of residents in New York were reported to be immigrants, about 4.4 million for the state as a whole. Albany welcomed about 1,300 individuals in that single year.

Unfortunately, winter weather has delayed installing the banner but as soon as conditions are right, you can be sure that it will be raised on the bell tower.

In this troubled time in our country when much uncertainty, fear and anti-immigrant sentiment exists, what a positive message we have to convey!

Refugee and Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus

RISSE Donation

By Alice Schrade

On World Wide Communion Sunday, we took part in the Peace and Global Witness Offering. We keep a portion, and we contributed \$150 of our share to the RISSE program at Emmaus Methodist Church in Albany and another \$150 went to the Muslim Soup Kitchen. RISSE has been in existence for several years, providing language learning, health care, housing arrangements, transportation, and general emotional and financial support to refugees and immigrants. They also offer child care, pre-school and general support to these folks who are new to our area and suffering the loss of their homeland. They offer furniture and any other product that a family might need when moving into a new abode. We can help if we wish in that endeavor.

RISSE phone is 518-621-1041 . The director, Rifat Filkins, comes originally from Pakistan.



Adult and High School Christian Education in January focused on “A Month of Diversity: Disarming Hate.” Islamic friends from “Children at the Well” were our guests pictured here. Join us in February for special speakers during Black History Month.



The First Presbyterian

Lenten Practices, Continued from p. 1.

With these words, disciples are reminded of their mortality and, when combined with the sign of the cross, they are also reminded of the hope of the resurrection.

Christians do not receive the sign of the cross to attract attention or to be noticed by others; they receive the sign of the cross to focus on who they are as human beings, bound in death and life to Christ. Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent provide time to explore the mystery at the heart of the gospel that being a Christian means a new life through Christ.

Maundy Thursday

The Thursday before Easter Sunday is the day to commemorate the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples. The story of Jesus breaking and blessing bread at the Passover meal, as a reminder of his life given freely for all, is told in the books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. This Passover act became the sacrament of holy communion in the Christian church. Celebration of communion is usually the centerpiece of a Maundy Thursday service. Another element of a Maundy Thursday service may be the act of foot washing. Many scholars believe the term *maundy* is taken from the Latin word *mandatum* or *mandate*. Jesus told his disciples to remember him in this meal, giving them a mandate to do this. Yet John's Gospel does not tell about the institution of communion at his last Passover meal; it highlights the story of Jesus girding himself with a towel, taking a basin of water, and washing his disciples' feet. John 13:34 includes Jesus' words, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." The mandate could be to do just that: to love one another. The observance of foot washing is practiced in some Presbyterian churches as a reminder of the kind of love and servanthood Christ asks of his disciples today.

Good Friday

The Friday before Easter is the day to remember the crucifixion and death of Jesus. Many wonder why this day is called good. This Friday is sometimes called Holy or Black Friday, but the term *good* reminds us of Jesus' blameless, good, and pious life. Churches sometimes have a special worship service between noon and 3 p.m.

to represent the hours that the sky turned dark as Jesus suffered and died. Many congregations base Good Friday worship on Jesus' last words from the cross. We remember this day as ultimately "good" for us, Jesus' followers.

Tenebrae

One other Lenten practice often observed during Holy Week is Tenebrae, Latin for "shadows" or "darkness." The unique feature of this worship service is the extinguishing of one candle after each reading until the room or sanctuary is totally dark. The darkness reminds those present of the days Jesus spent in the tomb. This service can be held on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, or Holy Saturday. Scripture for this service usually consists of Gospel readings describing the Last Supper through the crucifixion, including the last words of Jesus from the cross. The end of the service is usually marked by the lighting of one candle, reminding those present that the darkness does not overcome; the light will shine again!



Black History Month, Continued from p. 1.

Also on February 26, there will be the near-legendary Black History Month luncheon. The committee is asking for assistance in three areas, 1) set up, 2) clean up, and 3) food, specifically barbecue chicken, macaroni & cheese, tossed salad, corn bread, and bottles of juice. If you can help with any of these tasks, please contact Carol Green at 453-6538 or email her at Ccarol715@aol.com

The First Presbyterian

March 1

Ash Wednesday

Taizé Services Throughout Lent

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 1, and continuing for other Wednesdays in Lent (March 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5) join us for Taizé worship at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary followed by a light supper at 6:45 p.m. in the Rose Room. Our traditional Taizé services will include simple, meditative songs, scripture, prayer and silence.

The liturgy for these services originated with the Taizé community founded in France in 1940. This community is an ecumenical, intentional community with a twofold purpose: to seek communion with God through personal prayer and the beauty of community prayer; and also be a leaven of peace and trust in the midst of humanity. Come spend time listening to God and be renewed for your journey.

During Lent, the sermons will focus on various spiritual practices, considering one each week.



Homeless Action and Travelers Aid HATAS

By Alice Schrade

if you are downsizing or even buying new furniture for your home, consider giving what you are no longer using to a new “bank” in Albany, a furniture “bank” run by HATAS (Homeless Action and Travelers Aid) in conjunction with three other groups that help homeless folks find a place to live. The bank can be accessed on line or by emailing jbeckett@hatas.org or by phone: 612-2265.

This is such a wonderful opportunity to help those less fortunate and also to keep perfectly good furniture out of the landfills. Please consider it.

Walking a Sacred Path:

Discovering the Labyrinth as a Spiritual Tool

People around the world are rediscovering the ancient practice of walking the labyrinth. Unlike a maze which has many paths, a labyrinth has only one path which leads to the center. While a maze is meant to trick and confuse you so you will lose your way, a labyrinth helps you find your way. Labyrinths have been found around the world with the most famous one found in the floor of the nave of Chartres Cathedral in France. Through the years people have used the labyrinth as a spiritual tool—a path of prayer, a walking meditation.

Join us at the church on Saturday, February 11, from 9:30 to 12:30 as we explore the labyrinth. Miriam Lawrence Leupold, a trained labyrinth facilitator, will present a workshop on the labyrinth. Come find out more about this ancient spiritual tool and have the opportunity to walk on a canvas labyrinth. Workshop fee is \$5.00. If you'd like to stay for lunch and continued conversation from 12:30-1:30, lunch fee is \$8.00.

Lauren Artress, founder of Veriditas: the World Wide Labyrinth Project, writes, “The labyrinth provides the sacred space where the inner and outer worlds can commune, where the thinking mind and the imaginative heart can flow together... It is non-threatening; all we are asked to do is walk.”

We hope that you will carve out time for this workshop. Sign up by Tuesday, February 7, with Sue in the church office (449-7332 or info@firstpresalbany.org). If you have any questions, please contact Miriam at the church office (449-7332 or mleupold@firstpresalbany.org).



The First Presbyterian

Author & Illustrator Day

It may only be February, but mark your calendars for Author & Illustrator Day – April 29th. If you would like to help us before that, we need people who are willing to solicit advertisements for the program. This helps pay for the books that the children receive for free.

Our friend and illustrator, James Ransome, has helped us once again to obtain some fine authors and illustrators.

For those in PreK-K, we have Cheryl Willis Hudson. She and her husband, Wade, started their own publishing business when she noticed a lack of quality Black-interest books for her own children. She is now vice-president and editorial director of Just Us Books. Some of her books are: *AFRO-BETS ABC Book*, *AFRO-BETS 123 Book*, *Bright Eyes*, *Brown Skin*, and *Many Colors of Mother Goose*

For those in 1st and 2nd grade, we have Jerdine Nolen. Born in Mississippi and raised in Chicago, she comes from a large family. She has a master's degree in education and is a teacher, as well as a writer. She now lives in Columbia, MD, with her husband and two children. Some of her books are *Plantzilla*, *Pickle Museum*, *Max & Jax* and *Thunder Rose*.

For those in 3rd and 4th grade, our friend and local author, James Preller will be making a come-back appearance. He was much loved at our second Author & Illustrator Day. He tells us he is "the baby" of seven children, which surely must lead to many great stories. He's most known for his *Jigsaw Jones Mystery* and *Scary Tales* series, but his books such as *Bystander* and *Justin Fisher Declares War* appeal to older children as well.

For those in 5th and 6th grade, we have Sharon Flake. She confesses that she thought she'd be a pediatrician but somewhere along the way she majored in English at the University of Pittsburgh instead. She loves writing books for youth, and she loves music. She left working at the university to become a full time author. She has published many books, among them, *The Skin I'm In*, *Unstoppable Octobia May*, *You Are Not a Cat*, *The Broken Bike Boy* and the *Queen of 33rd Street*.

We would love to have you volunteer on Friday evening setting up or working on Saturday. However, we hope you will at least join us to meet

Wizard's Wardrobe

We draw ever nearer to beginning our after school tutoring program. As you can see by the pictures below, our space is in the process of being transformed into a castle with stone pillars, thanks to David Hinchon and Leslie Rocarrio, who led a team of 15 people for a painting party.

There is still a bit of work left to do to get the space at 20 Rensselaer Street ready, but we hope that will be done soon.

In the meantime, we will be having another all day (9 am-3:30 pm) tutor training on Saturday, February 11th. We would love to have you join us. We are hoping to conduct this training at our new space. Just let Debbie Fagans know if you are interested in attending or helping the program in some other way.



these authors, buy some of their books, get them signed, enjoy the great fun of hearing our Giffen students perform and meet Griffen, the Giffen gator.

See you on the 29th!!

The First Presbyterian

Special Music for Holy Week

By Michael Lister, Director of Music

For this year's Good Friday service on April 14, the musicians of First Presbyterian Church will continue the tradition of presenting music composed for Holy Week.

This year we will sing a setting of the Stabat Mater text ("The mother [of Christ] stands at the cross") composed by Joseph Rheinberger.

As we have done in past years, we invite members, friends, and guests of First Presbyterian to join the Chancel Choir for this performance. We will be offering extra rehearsals monthly for those who would like to join in.

For more information, please check the bulletin in the coming weeks or feel free to contact me at mlister@firstpresalbany.org.

Potluck Supper with Author Diane Cameron

Jack and Sue Holmes, Coordinators
Rachel Smith, Host to the Speaker



Diane Cameron, noted journalist, author and speaker, will be with us for the February 17 Potluck supper. We're excited to have this exceptional speaker tell us how she came to write *Never Leave Your*

Dead, a story of her stepfather and his struggle with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. You'll be fascinated hearing about her learning and experiences.

But first, come to the Rose Room at 6:00 p.m. for fellowship and a meal at 6:30. Contact the office (449-7332) to sign up and to let us know what you will bring for the potluck. Plan now to come on February 17!

February 3 First Friday

By Michael Lister, Director of Music

We resume our First Friday series on February 3 with a very exciting pairing of music and artistic selections. Flautist Yvonne Chavez-Hansbrough and guitarist Paul Quigley will present *Latin American and Spanish Music for flute and guitar*.

The art gallery will feature the paintings and photographs of Capital Region Photographer and artist Sarah Pezdek-Smith, whose portfolio includes a variety of provocative works. The art gallery is open from 5:30-8:00 pm, and the concert begins at 6:00 pm.

We hope that you will be able to join us and bring your friends to what will be a wonderful evening of music and art (and, of course, refreshments)!



A preview of the First Friday Art Gallery (above)

Ordination and Installation of Church Officers (below)



The First Presbyterian

First Pres Youth **Secret Santa Christmas Party**

By Christy D'Ambrosio

Instead of an exam on the Christian Education curriculum, we took a break, exchanged gifts, ate delicious snacks and welcomed a bevy of alumni to join us in the celebration. Imani and Bate are in Cameroon, but Maddy, Jenna, Akap, Arah, Maggie, and Jordan were on hand to welcome Mackenzie, Araglin, Sam, Emma, Mia, and Lauren, all in college, back to the HS CE classroom for a reunion and holiday celebration. It was a wonderful hour.



The Upper Rooms **Boy Jesus in the Temple**

A new rotation in The Upper Rooms (our Christian education program for children in kindergarten through 8th grade) begins February 12 and runs through March 5. The theme for Kindergarten through 5th graders is "Boy Jesus in the Temple," and the children will be exploring Luke 2:41-52. Workshops will include Memory on the Mount, Jericho Theater, Sinai Stage, and The Tower of Scrabble. 6th through 8th graders are exploring Faith Questions in The Upper Rooms with Ellen Eisenbraun and Amy Robinson. If you're interested in teaching for two weeks in one of the upcoming rotations, sign up in Assembly Hall or contact Pastor Miriam.



Thank You From Mayan Hands

By Alice Schrade

For about eight years we, at First Pres, have been having a sale of weaving and other crafts from Mayan Hands at Christmastime. Each year, when the sale approaches, the board wonders how well it will go. Each year we are astounded by how our products are accepted and people seem delighted with them and are so supportive.

Many women in Guatemala are poor, and living in an unstable country, their lives in constant jeopardy from many sources. Many women have left school by second grade or have never attended. The fair prices we offer for their work, the training to make new products, and additional help from the foundation change their lives and their children's lives for the better.

This year's sale earned almost \$2,000 and that will pay for health visits, school products, school costs and so much more.

At First Pres we have had a partnership with the Mam people in Guatemala and many of us have traveled there and have seen how the Mayan people live and how they are treated. They are a humble people and I am so thankful that we are so generous and supportive.

For further information please check out the Outreach and Mission bulletin board.

Deacons Doings

By Leslie Roccario

Albany West Flock (headed by Deacons Joe Mathias, Kirsten Pruzek and Teboh Raphael) will be hosting the coffee hour after the second service in February. If you are a member of that flock and can contribute some goodies or your presence in serving, please let them know. It's really great when the whole flock participates.

And a head's up: Rensselaer Flock is responsible for the March coffee hours.

It's a new year and a new flower calendar is up in the lobby in the office/education building just waiting for you to sign up and add to the beauty of our sanctuary on Sundays. Please consider taking one of the slips and returning it to the office with your desired date affixed. Check the calendar to see what's available. Payment can be made later, and the office will ask you what you want your dedication to say in the bulletin on your particular Sunday as the date gets closer.

Ellen Kemp is the new Deacon in charge of the Flower Ministry!



Christian Education for all ages happens on these three floors every Sunday at 9:30 am:

1. Adult Ed.
2. Child Care, Nursery & High School
3. The Upper Rooms (K-8) and sometimes in the kitchen!



FOCUS Turns 50 in 2017!

Mark Your Calendar!

February 5 – Rick Spalding at First Pres

First Pres gets the celebration started by hosting the Winter Worship! On Sunday, February 5, FOCUS will kick off its 50th Anniversary with a special worship service at First Presbyterian Church, 10 am. Rev. Rick Spalding former Associate Pastor at Westminster Presbyterian will be preaching. A reception will follow, with recognition of special volunteers, a slide show and a time line.

February 12 - FOCUS Empty Bowls Fundraiser

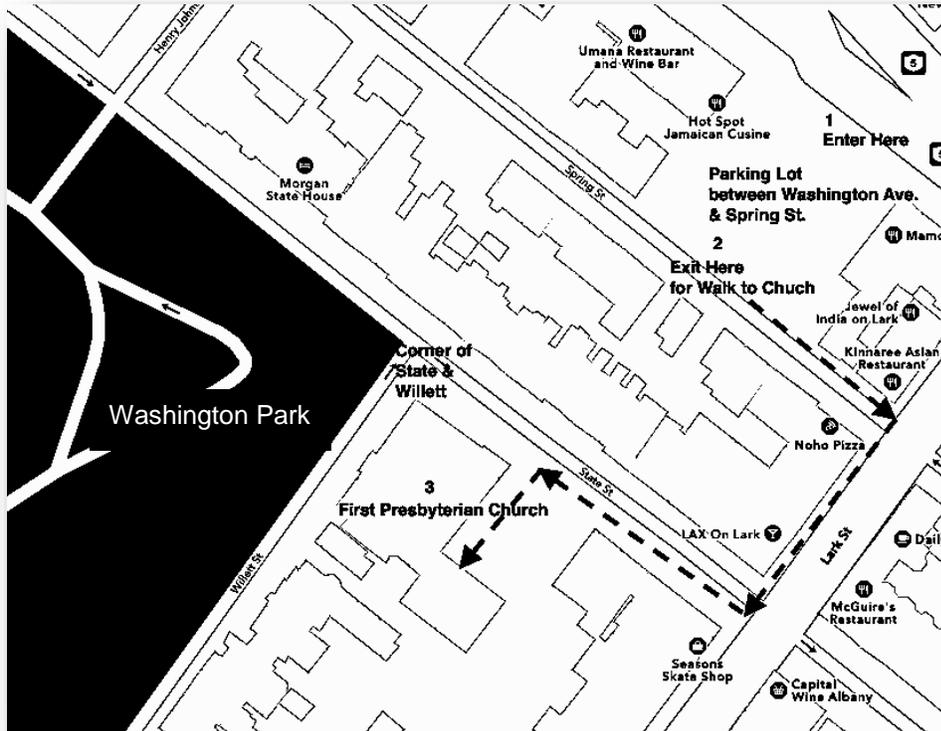
Plan now to attend the Empty Bowls FOCUS fundraiser, Sunday, February 12! Please join FOCUS Churches and the Hunger Action Network of New York State at the Elks Lodge, 25 S. Allen Street from 1 to 3 pm. For only \$25, you can pick out a beautiful, hand-crafted ceramic bowl donated by area artists, and enjoy all the wonderful soup and bread you like. You can pre-register by calling FOCUS at 443-0460 or HANNYS at 434-7371. All proceeds will go to feed the hungry and fight against the conditions that cause hunger.

March 25 - Gala Birthday Celebration

Saturday, March 25th will be the Gala Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of FOCUS Churches. We'll have good food, live music from Steve Gretz and Leslie Lee, recognition of volunteers, and lots more! Gather at 5:00 pm at Congregation Beth Emeth, 100 Academy Rd., Albany.



The First Presbyterian



Parking at First Pres

A reminder that on Sundays the parking lot beside the church is reserved for handicapped people and first time visitors. Please do not double park or block other people in the lot on Sundays. Remember there is a lot on Washington Avenue just west of Lark Street (beside Mamou's Restaurant), a block from the church, that can be used free of charge by First Pres members and guests on Sundays. Thanks for your cooperation!

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3:

1. Enter the lot by Washington Ave, and park the car.
2. Exit the lot by Spring St, and walk down Spring to Lark and Lark to 362 State.
3. Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!



The ancient ritual of "the laying on of hands," during ordination and installation of Elders and Deacons.

Deacons' Flower Ministry

- Feb 5 Delmar Neighborhood Flock
- Feb 12 Albany East Neighborhood Flock
- Feb 19 Latham-Loudonville Neighborhood Flock
- Feb 26 Rensselaer & East Neighborhood Flock

The Albany West
Neighborhood Flock hosts
February Coffee Hours.

Ushers and Greeters

- Feb 5 10:00 am **FOCUS at First Pres**
Team 2 – Dwight Cheu, Leslie Cheu, Joanne Gascoyne, Richard Gascoyne, David Hannay
- Feb 12 8:30 am Jackie and Lynn Ellsworth
10:45 am Team 3 – Keith Barber, David Haase, Bob Stevens, Linda Stevens
- Feb 19 8:30 am Mary Rogers
10:45 am Team 4 – Jeff Durgée, Ray Henrikson, Prudence Iyok, Rachel Smith, Roseline Takor
- Feb 26 8:30 am John Myers
10:45 am Team 5 – Don Mark, David Pettis, Ron Pettis, Marilyn Riddle, Phillip Riddle, Barbara Woodruff

February 2017

1 Wednesday

12:00 pm JI/JO
7:00 pm Zephyr Winds
7:15 pm Small Group B³

2 Thursday

7:00 am Men's Bible Study
6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

3 Friday

Youth Ski Weekend
5:30 pm First Friday Art Display
6:00 pm First Friday Concert

4 Saturday

Youth Ski Weekend
9:30 am Presbytery Meeting,
New Covenant Church

5 Sunday

Youth Ski Weekend
10:00 am FOCUS Worship

6 Monday

6:00 pm *Music Together*

7 Tuesday

9:00 am Men's Bible Study
12:45 pm Staff Meeting
5:30 pm **Committee Night**
• Membership
• Outreach & Mission
• Property
• Worship
7:00 pm Dinner
7:30 pm • Christian Education

8 Wednesday

7:30 pm Dads' Small Group

9 Thursday

7:00 am Men's Bible Study
9:30 am *Music Together*
6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

11 Saturday

9:30 am Labyrinth Workshop

12 Sunday

8:30 am Worship (Communion)
9:30 am Education for all ages
9:45 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:45 am Worship
11:45 am Fellowship
1:00 pm FOCUS Empty Bowls
Fundraiser

13 Monday

6:00 pm *Music Together*

14 Tuesday

9:00 am Men's Bible Study
6:45 pm Deacons

15 Wednesday

12:00 pm JI/JO
7:15 pm Small Group B³

16 Thursday

7:00 am Men's Bible Study
9:30 am *Music Together*
6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

17 Friday

6:00 pm Potluck Dinner

19 Sunday

8:30 am Worship (Communion)
9:30 am Education for all ages
9:45 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:45 am Worship (Communion)
11:45 am Fellowship
1:00 pm *Vintage Pride*

20 Monday office closed

NYS Council of Churches Youth UN
Leadership Forum
6:00 pm *Music Together*
6:00 pm FOCUS Board Meeting

21 Tuesday

NYS Council of Churches Youth UN
Leadership Forum
9:00 am Men's Bible Study
7:00 pm Session

22 Wednesday

NYS Council of Churches Youth UN
Leadership Forum
7:30 pm Dads' Small Group

23 Thursday

7:00 am Men's Bible Study
9:30 am *Music Together*
6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

26 Sunday

8:30 am Worship (Communion)
9:30 am Education for all ages
9:45 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:45 am Worship
11:45 am Black History Month
Luncheon

27 Monday

6:00 pm *Music Together*

28 Tuesday

9:00 am Men's Bible Study

Note: Italics indicate outside groups.

AA Meeting Schedule

Daily 5:30 pm
Wed 10:00 pm

Get Well Group

Wed & Fri 7:30 pm

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Albany, NY 12210

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The First Presbyterian

Lectionary

- Feb 5 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**
Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12] Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16] Matthew 5:13-20
- Feb 12 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**
Deuteronomy 30:15-20 or Sirach 15:15-20 Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37
- Feb 19 Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany**
Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18 Psalm 119:33-40
1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23 Matthew 5:38-48
- Feb 26 Transfiguration of the Lord**
Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 2 or Psalm 99
2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9

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Please notify the church office of any change in address.

Recordings of the worship service are available from the church office.