



# The First Presbyterian Newsletter

Volume 72, Number 7

March 2017



## In This Issue

Ash Wednesday .....	2
Labyrinth .....	2
Newsletter Transformation .....	3
One Great Hour of Sharing .....	3
FOCUS Worship at First Pres .....	4
First Friday and Good Friday .....	5
Youth Ski Trip .....	6
March Potluck .....	6
Author & Illustrator Day .....	6
Deacons' Doings .....	7
SERRV Catalogs .....	7

## The Disciplines of Lent

**Ash Wednesday Worship, March 1, 6 pm**

Welcome to Lent, 2017! The season starts on March 1 with Ash Wednesday and continues until April 15, the day before Easter.

From the earliest days of the Church, Lent has been a special time as the events leading up to Jesus' life and death are recalled, all to get ready for the celebration of Easter and the Easter season. For this year's observance of Lent, there will be an emphasis on spiritual practices, not only learning about them but also doing them. We'll look at Sabbath keeping, generosity, writing/journaling and poetry, lectio divina (prayerful scripture reading) and resistance as a spiritual discipline.

These disciplines will be a focus of March and early April sermons, as well as some of the Adult Education classes in Lent. There will also be a Labyrinth Workshop (see p. 2). As part of this focus, there will be no "business" meetings of our Session committees in March. Instead, we hope this will free up time to take on some form of spiritual discipline for the duration of Lent – and perhaps beyond. We hope everyone will commit to coming to the Wednesday program in Lent. We hope you will know God, yourself and your fellow travelers at First Pres more fully as a result of this season.

***This is the last edition of The First Presbyterian Newsletter!  
See p. 3!***

## Holy Week

**Palm/Passion Sunday, April 9, 8:30 & 10:45 am**

Worship begins in joy and hope of the Messiah's arrival, then gives way to a sense of dread as the people turn against him.

**Maundy Thursday, April 13, Tenebrae worship, 7:30 pm**

This service will mark Jesus' command to remember him in the bread and wine. It will also commemorate the disciples' desertion of him upon his arrest.

**Good Friday, April 14, worship at 7:30 p.m.**

We'll mark this darkest day of the year as the savior we've been following is murdered on a cross. Full details on p. 5.

**Easter Sunday Worship, April 16**

**6:30 FOCUS Sunrise Service, West Capitol Park**

**8:30 Worship**

**9:30 Brunch (Youth fundraiser)**

**10:45 Worship**

# 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

**Wednesday, March 1, 6 pm**

## Ash Wednesday, Taizé Worship

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 Lenten journey.

## 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, March 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

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



## A Shift in How to be Informed

### And a Transformation from Newsletter to Journal

by Glenn Leupold

You may have noticed that this March edition of *The First Presbyterian Newsletter* is short and sweet. It is helping to make the point that there is nothing in our newsletter that is not available from another information source. Starting now, the main source of information for upcoming events will be the Sunday bulletin, the church's website (firstpresalbany.org), the church's Facebook page and especially the Thursday all-church email or "e-blast" as it is often called. These will be the main ways that upcoming events will be promoted, and the best ways to find out about upcoming events. Currently the information in the newsletter is subject to being redundant or out of date by the time the events described in them actually happen. Rather than try to find where you put your newsletter, you can go to your email inbox and see the weekly e-blast, go to our redesigned website or visit our Facebook page. This will give you up-to-date information and decrease uncertainty and confusion.

You may wonder why I didn't just say, "This is the last newsletter." That's because this current newsletter format will be changed to focus more on celebrating what we do as a church. A publication with a new name will be created a few times a year that will lift up the significant events of our year at First Pres and give you the chance to reminisce or see what you missed. This will come in the mail. It will be photo-filled and colorful (on-line). It will also be a great item to share with your friends, acquaintances or neighbors who may like to learn more about us. For a brief preview of what's to come, see pp. 4-5.

You may also be wondering, "What about those who do not have email?" The weekly e-blast will be printed out and "surface mailed" to any who would prefer that avenue over email. We hope to keep everyone informed about the events at First Pres. If you would like to be one of those who receives a print version, please contact Sue Bartle in the church office at 449-7332.

In practical terms, this means that if you have an event or gathering for which you used to submit a newsletter article to Dick Gascoyne or me, now you just send it to Sue, noting whether it is for the

website, the Sunday bulletin, the Thursday e-blast, or some combo of those three.

You can also ask Sue to send it on to one of the First Pres Facebook page hosts. If you have photos or an article of a more retrospective topic, that is, about an event that has already happened, send it to Dick Gascoyne who will continue in his role as layout editor for the new publication. You can contact him best via email at [gascoynerichard@gmail.com](mailto:gascoynerichard@gmail.com).

You may also be wondering, "But Glenn, we've never done it that way before."

Yes, you are right. And as with any change in the church, the option remains of returning to the old ways if this change does not work out well. In the meantime, we'll all have the joy of trying something new and looking forward to what lies ahead. Perhaps embracing change can also be a spiritual discipline for Lent. Finally, a big THANKS to Dick Gascoyne for his work on this newsletter for the last 10 years!

### Received on Easter

## One Great Hour of Sharing

Generosity is a spiritual discipline. And the *One Great Hour of Sharing* offering, received on Easter Sunday, is used to fund a worthy cause. This denominational offering will help meet basic human needs around the world.

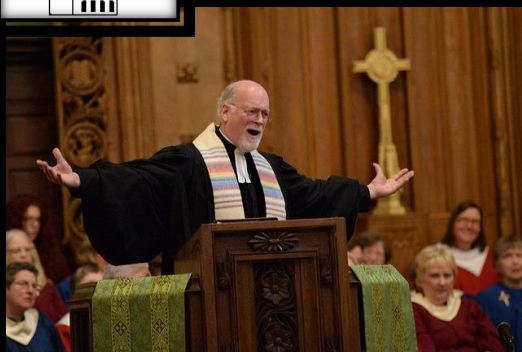
The Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 36 percent of undesignated OGHs gifts, while the Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance each receive 32 percent. Envelopes will be in the pews during Holy Week and Easter for your convenience. Please give generously to the *One Great Hour of Sharing*.



# The First Presbyterian



February 5, 2017  
Worship at First Presbyterian Church  
A Photo Essay



Photos by Dwight Cheu and Richard Gascoyne

# The First Presbyterian



## First Fridays Feature a Concert and Art Gallery

Upcoming concerts –  
• Friday, March 3  
• Good Friday April 14



First Friday Concert, March 3, 5:30 pm

## ***Mass for Five Voices***

**Watercolors by Kevin Kuhne**

By Michael Lister, Music Director

On March 3, our First Friday concert will feature the First Presbyterian soloists Deborah Rocco, Fiona McKinney, Michael Lister, Nathaniel Wardlaw, and Chris Trombley in a performance of William Byrd's *Mass for Five Voices*. This Latin Mass was composed by Byrd during the reign of Elizabeth I, when it was considered illegal to practice Catholicism. As such, the music was meant for private worship and to be performed by a small number of singers. The first portion of the First Friday concert features Soprano Susan Boddie and Will Wise performing chamber music for voice and oboe. Our Gallery includes *Watercolors by Kevin Kuhne*, whose art works are largely representations of nature from the Capital Region. The First Friday gallery hours are from 5:30-8 pm, and the concert begins at 6:00 pm.



Good Friday Service, April 14, 7:30 pm

## ***Stabat Mater***

In keeping with our tradition from the past few years, our Good Friday service on April 14 will present a series of scripture readings and other lessons alternated with movements from Joseph Rheinberger's *Stabat Mater*. Rheinberger was a Romantic composer who was drawn to the sacred music of the past, with the result that his music has an eternal beauty in its expression. *Stabat Mater*, scored for choir and strings, offers us a prominent place with Mary at the foot of the cross, as we witness the love and sacrifice of Christ first-hand. We hope that you will be able to join us for these special times of worship and reflection during this special season.



# The First Presbyterian

## Youth Ski Trip, 2017

By Christy D'Ambrosio, Youth Director

On Friday, February 3, we loaded five vehicles with twenty-eight people, sleeping bags, snow gear and equipment, and we headed for Stratton, VT. There was skiing, sledding, swimming, pool, ping pong, board games, movies, food, fun, and fellowship. First Pres welcomed a group of youth from Westminster Pres down the street. Our entire group included fourteen high school youth, seven middle school youth, and seven chaperones (three college age and four older but young-at-heart). By Sunday we were tired and running out of food, so we returned to Albany.



Skip Meislahn, our downhill ski guru, who has provided the adult presence on the mountain and helped the newbies discover their ski legs for many years, has announced that this was his last Ski Trip Weekend.

Skip is planning a move to Virginia with his wife, Ginger. Thank you, Skip, for your presence and patience. We will miss you at the condo in February. There will always be a spot for you (and Ginger) to join us again in the future.



Jason Scarlett, one of the participants in the first ski weekend event seven years ago, has returned. Jason is an excellent skier and he has agreed to take up the downhill ski guru mantle. Thank you, Jason!

Pot Luck, Friday, March 17, 6 pm

## Ecology Disturbed, Repaired, Restored

The March Potluck will take place on Friday, the 17, with gathering at 6:00 and dinner at 6:30. Katie Henrikson will present a talk on ecology. The title is *Ecology Disturbed, Repaired, Restored*.

Please remember to call the church office (449-7332) so we will know how many are coming and what people will bring to the dinner.



**And, coming Friday, May 19:**

Richard Cerasani, author of *Love Letters from Mount Rushmore*, will discuss his award-winning novel which tells the true story of a "Marriage, a Monument, and a Moment in history." Richard lives in Wilton, NY, and in addition to being a writer has been a professional actor for over 50 years appearing on *Law and Order* and the soap opera *General Hospital*. **Save the Date and bring your friends.**

**Author & Illustrator Day, April 29**

## Sign up NOW!

By Deb Fagans, Outreach and Mission Committee

Although it is only March, Author & Illustrator Day will be here before we know it – April 29. We need your help.

Please find the sign-up sheet that is enclosed in this newsletter and sign up for the job you would like to do and let me know when you can be there. We often have many people at the beginning of the day and few towards the end, so don't feel shy about coming later to pitch in. A/I Day itself runs from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm but there are activities before that.

## Deacons' Doings

By Bob Willower

The Rensselaer Flock (headed by Deacons Diane Cornell, Leslie Roccario, and Deb Shoup) will be hosting the coffee hour after the second service in March. If you are a member of that flock and can contribute some goodies or your presence in serving, please let them know. Your help will be appreciated, and it's a great way to become better acquainted with members of your flock and the church family as a whole!

And a head's up: The Guilderland/Schenectady Flock is responsible for the April coffee hours.

The updated Flock Listings for 2017 are ready for distribution, and your Flock Deacons are in the process of seeing that all members of their respective flocks receive them. These listings provide contact information for your assigned Deacons and also list the members of your flock family.

The Latham/Loudonville Flock will be holding a flock gathering on March 18, with hosts Charlie Kite and Tara Lindsley presiding. Flock gatherings, for those of you who are new to First Presbyterian, provide an opportunity for fellowship with those members of the church family closest to you. These gatherings may take many formats – pizza party, movie or concert outing, or a pot luck hosted by a member of your flock. You may want to help organize or even host a gathering for your flock. Your Deacons will be very happy to receive your help. You may contact the Deacons as listed on the flock list you have or will be receiving. If you have not received your list yet and have a question regarding your flock, you may call Bob Willower at 225-1203 for assistance.



Sundays, from March 26 - April 9

## SERRV Catalogs Available

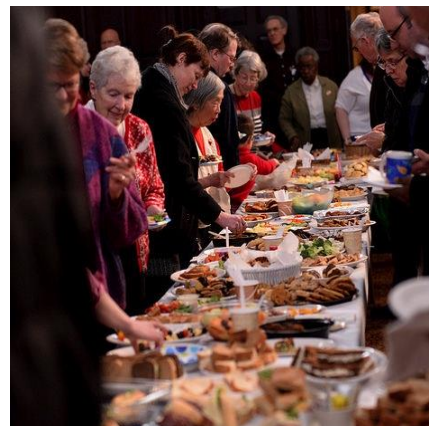
By Deb Fagans, Outreach and Mission Committee

SERRV International was launched in 1949. It began as a program of the Church of the Brethren as a way to help refugees in Europe recover economically and socially from World War II. The name SERRV is an acronym for Sales Exchange for Refugee Rehabilitation and Vocation. The organization's mission is to "promote the social and economic progress of people in developing regions of the world by marketing their products in a just and direct manner".

In case you were wondering "Where was the SERRV sale?" last fall, we want you to know the Outreach and Mission Committee did not forget to have it. The committee decided that since we have Mayan Hands around Christmas to encourage fair trade buying for presents at that time of the year, we would hold the SERRV sale in the spring to encourage fair trade buying for graduation and wedding presents.

We also decided to shorten the duration of the sale. It will be held from Sunday, March 26 to Sunday, April 9. Catalogs will be available in Assembly Hall. You will have just three Sundays (two weeks) to get your order in. We should have the merchandise by the end of April, in time for graduations and weddings.

The Spring Catalog carries many items different from those in the Fall Catalog, in addition to many of your favorites. The church does receive 25% of the total sales and this is used to augment the Outreach and Mission Committee's ability to respond to the needs of the community outside of our budget. Thank you!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
362 State Street  
Albany, NY 12210

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ALBANY, NY  
Permit No. 63

## The First Presbyterian

### Lectionary

**Mar 5 First Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7    Psalm 32  
Romans 5:12-19    Matthew 4:1-11

**Mar 12 Second Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 12:1-4a    Psalm 121  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17    John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

**Mar 19 Third Sunday in Lent**

Exodus 17:1-7    Psalm 95  
Romans 5:1-11    John 4:5-42

**Mar 26 Fourth Sunday in Lent**

1 Samuel 16:1-13    Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14    John 9:1-41

See the Newsletter on line and in color at  
[www.firstpresalbany.org](http://www.firstpresalbany.org)

Also see us on facebook.com

Wagemark certified

**WAGEMARK**



**Office Hours**  
Monday through Friday  
9:30 am to 1:30 pm

**Office Manager**    Sue Bartle

**Phone**    518-449-7332

**Fax**    518-449-3104

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

**Facebook**    [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresalbany.org)

**E-mail**    [info@firstpresalbany.org](mailto:info@firstpresalbany.org)

*The First Presbyterian Newsletter* is  
published 11 times a year.

**Editor**    Rev. Dr. Glenn D. Leupold  
**Layout**    Richard C. Gascoyne

Please notify the church office of any  
change in address.

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