



The First Presbyterian Newsletter

Volume 72, Number 3

November 2016



Six days you shall work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; even in plowing time and in harvest time you shall rest.
Exodus 34:21

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Equinox Thanksgiving Dinner November 24, 2016

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

By Annette Johnson, Chairperson, Outreach and Mission Committee

As has been our Thanksgiving tradition at First Pres for many years, we will be partnering with Equinox to sponsor and host the community Thanksgiving Dinner. Here at our church, members of the Albany community who would like to have a holiday meal in a hospitable and respectful setting will be welcomed with joy and abundance. By making our church available to host the dinner for the community, we demonstrate our commitment to a mission that embraces reaching out and inviting in all God's people.

Since we are the hosts, I am inviting members of the congregation to come, if possible, on Thanksgiving Day to welcome our guests and volunteers as they help others to enjoy a bountiful meal and warm fellowship. You need not be here the whole day, but, if you can share some of your time with us on that day, it would be a wonderful addition to the spirit of Thanksgiving. Being there on that day is a way to give back, but it is also a way to open your eyes and heart to a community that needs to know that you care. Your Thanksgiving will be enriched.

If you would like to participate in welcoming guests and volunteers, would you please contact the Church Office to sign up. You can also be a general volunteer by calling the T-Day hotline: 434-0131.

10 Years of Ministry with First Pres

On Sunday, October 2, the congregation celebrated the tenth anniversary of a wonderful partnership with our Co-pastors, Glenn and Miriam Lawrence Leupold. Memories, gifts, and a sumptuous banquet,



planned and prepared in style by Stephanie Kite, Roseline Takor and their team is documented in photos on p. 3

Glenn D. and Miriam Lawrence Leupold with daughters Margaret and Elizabeth

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
Richard Gascoyne
Annette Johnson
Stephanie Kite
Harry (Skip) Meislahn
John Myers
Phillip Riddle
Mary Rogers
Roseline Takor

Deacons

Prudence Iyok
Moderator
Diane Cornell
Lee Helsby
Ellen Kemp
Peter Kimuli
Judith Mark
Joe Mathias
Jerry Nathan
Ron Pettis
Leslie Roccario
Peg Schalit
Gail Scott
Deb Shoup
Grace White
Robert Willower
Barbara Woodruff
Margaret Zettle

But You and I are Hearing it Right Now

Pause Here a Moment . . .

Editor's note: The following is from The Christian Century and was penned by Brian Doyle, author of the novel Chicago and editor of Portland magazine. It is a memory of his days in Catholic school. You can read The Christian Century in our library.

I was in sixth grade. The teacher was Sister Everard. She was a slight but imposing woman. She was ancient beyond measure: 40. If you misbehaved or got lippy or were unprepared in class, she would lower her eyebrows and glare at you. She was stern and somber and orderly and firm and rigorous and organized and blank and unemotional. I cannot remember that I ever saw her smile, which is a remarkable thing to say of a person I saw nearly every day for a year, but that is so. I cannot remember that she laughed or cried or lost her temper or sneered or snickered or cracked a joke or offered a side-long wry remark or skipped or giggled or twirled her rosary for effect or groaned melodramatically at the profligate idiocy of her young charges, as some of the other sisters did. I suspect now that she had learned to manage her class by incarnating the quiet discipline she wished to instill and evoke in us; but that is the present conclusion of a man much older than she was then. Back then we thought her only stern and rigorous and dry as a skittered leaf – until one afternoon in October.

We were in the brambly thicket of mathematics, as I remember, and someone had just asked Sister the difference between arithmetic and mathematics, and Sister Everard had glared at the questioner, suspecting that the question was offered as a distraction, when the classroom door opened, without anyone having knocked hesitantly, as was school custom, and in walked the monsignor. He didn't come into the room more than a step, though, and he made a slight gesture to Sister, who walked down my aisle to the door. When Sister walked past you could smell the faintest trace of lavender and talcum and chalk and something that might have been pine; the closest I can get to identifying the scent is to say it is the scent of vacation cabins in woods where there is a great deal of snow in winter.

The monsignor inclined his head to Sister and whispered something and then he put his hand on her shoulder and they stared at each other for two or three seconds. Of course we had all turned around in our chairs to see all this. Then the monsignor stepped out of the room and closed the door gently and Sister did not walk back to the blackboard but instead walked up the third aisle and put her hand on the shoulder of a girl whose father was very sick and prayers had been said for him for the last six weeks.

All the rest of my life, I think, I will remember the way the girl didn't look up at Sister for a few seconds. She just stared straight ahead at the neck of the girl in front of her. Sister didn't say anything and her hand stayed there gentle on the girl's shoulder as if it was a young sparrow quite comfortable on that narrow perch. Finally the girl stood up, still without looking at Sister, and we heard someone start to sob, but it wasn't the girl, it was Sister Everard. No one moved an iota or an atom or an eyelash. We think that time is a very

Continued at the bottom of p. 6.

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A Celebration of 10 Years of Ministry

The Rev. Drs. Glenn D. and Miriam Lawrence Leupold
and First Presbyterian Church of Albany, NY



A very big thank you to the congregation for the celebration on Sunday, October 2, marking our 10 years of ministry with First Pres. We deeply appreciate the delicious lunch complete with purple décor, the photo album of images and the box full of meaningful notes from the congregation that bring back numerous fond memories. Thanks to the session members who

have served during these 10 years for their generous gift. We are overwhelmed and feel extremely blessed to be called as co-pastors to First Pres. We look forward to more years of ministry with you all. To God be the glory!

With grateful hearts,
Miriam and Glenn

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Christmas Nativity Pageant **Bohemian Rhapsody**

By Christy D'Ambrosio, Youth Director

This Christmas season the youth will present a rock opera Christmas pageant with a score written by the rock band, Queen, with new lyrics for *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

The cast for this production is the largest cast to be assembled for a youth production: 27. This includes our soloists from the Chancel Choir: Debbie Rocco, Fiona McKinney, Eugene Sit and new tenor Nate Wardlaw. The soloists will act as narrators. Of course there is Mary, Joseph, King Herod and the three Wise Men, but there are also six angels, four shepherds, and seven sheep.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 11, after the 10:45 worship service, about noon, for this short, but delightful performance.



Field of Horrors **Followed by Lock-In**

By Christy D'Ambrosio

On Sunday, October 9, twenty youth gathered at First Pres for the Annual Lock-In event. In attendance were: Akap Takor, Arah-tu Abunaw, Bate Egbe, Arthur & Daniel Iyok along with three of Daniel's friends, Jovani, Xavier, and Connor, Jordan Scarlett, Imani and Pharryll Elad, Lydia Green, Lidia Boucher, Brianna Obi, Dorothy Sperry, and her friend Erin. We also welcomed some of our friends from Westminster: Andy Scaptura, Maxine Quaye, Julie Pluvose, and Sofia Vance-Ocampo. This group was chaperoned by Araglin Kite and Christy D'Ambrosio.

After fortifying ourselves with pizza, we got on the road to *Field of Horrors*, north of Troy, for a scary evening, followed by dessert, games and a movie back at First Pres. After a short nap we all had breakfast and headed home to get some real sleep. It was Great Fun! Let's do it in time for Christmas again next year!



In Time for Christmas **Gifts From Mayan Hands**

By Alice Schrade

On Sunday, December 11, Mayan Hands Crafts will be available as part of the Fair Trade Market. First Pres Church has been a generous supporter of Mayan Hands and has shown appreciation for their weavings, table linens, baskets, and their small felted animals. There are more wonderful animals this year.

Mayan Hands partners with over 200 women artisans in Guatemala to bring us unique, fairly traded and sustainable gifts. Your purchase empowers the women and helps preserve cultural traditions. As we have learned, empowering women enables them to better help their children toward their education. They are raised out of poverty and despair and have a future full of hope. This is a natural fit with our Fair Trade Market where you will find organic coffee, chocolate, and tea – all fairly traded so that the producers receive the maximum benefit of their products. If you would like a sneak peek at what you'll find that day from Mayan Hands, visit mayanhands.org. Plan now so you won't come unprepared on December 11.



Our Mayan Partners



More Light **The Rainbow is Back**

By Keith Barber, More Light Committee Chair

The rainbow welcoming banners above the entry doors to our sanctuary are back. Actually, the missing banners have been replaced. The More Light Committee had requested the banners a few years ago and had worked with the Property Committee for procurement of these banners and their installation as a sign of welcome for all.

Rainbows have become a symbol of universal welcome, especially for LGBTQ people. We know they have attracted new people to come into our church, some LGBTQ folks, some allies, and some interested in an opening and affirming church for other reasons.

Two of the three banners disappeared during Lark Fest a few weeks ago. With a street party of that size and exuberance, somebody is likely to misbehave.

I made note of this on my personal Facebook page and with no other publicity and with no request for funding, some of our members made special donations to help defray the cost of replacing the banners. The More Light Committee is grateful for their generosity and support. As soon as the flag shop got the new banners made, Joyce Bascom picked them up, and delivered them to the church where Stephanie Kite has arranged to get them hung.

So once again, we are able to boldly proclaim to all who pass by that all of God's children are welcome at First Pres -- no exceptions!



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Wizard's Wardrobe Update

By Deb Fagans

Editor's Note: Wizard's Wardrobe is a volunteer project that grew from our partnership with Giffen Memorial Elementary School in the South End of Albany. It is a tutoring project inspired by Deb and Eric Fagans.

There's 'motion detector,' 'locomotion,' 'perpetual motion,' and then there's 'slow-motion.' And slow-motion is the way things have been progressing as summer ended with the Wizard's Wardrobe. We cannot believe it took as much time as it did.

First, we filed a Building Permit in mid-June, knowing that we would be turned-down. If we had not been turned-down we could not appeal the decision, which was the next step. The appeal took eight weeks to be processed and ended with a testimony and hearing one night at City Hall. Then it took four more days for the appeal to be referred to the Building and Code Reinforcement Department so that we could re-apply for a Building Permit. The permit would take another two and a half weeks to process, but, finally, we have it! The lease for the property also took an inordinate amount of time, jumping through many hoops for Albany Housing's approval.

In the meantime, sixteen tutors have been trained and our list of students to be helped continues to grow. The bookcases we obtained from the recently closed St. Augustine's Catholic School have been sanded and primed. Our design crew has been busy planning ways to make our space resemble a castle with stone walls and stained glass windows. The Habitat Restore has provided our wardrobe. And next week our contractor goes to work to get everything ready: filling holes in the floor, hanging new doors (including several castle-like barn doors), installation of a drinking fountain and creation of a unisex wheelchair-accessible bathroom. Finally, things are looking up.

Continued from p. 2, **Pause Here a Moment**

shadow that passeth away and flees from us except in faint and fading memory, but I deny this, I deny it adamantly, for here is the girl who has just discovered she is fatherless, holding Sister Everard's head under her chin, and here is Sister sobbing quietly, a sound we had never heard before and never heard again. But you and I are hearing it right now, right in this sentence, which is a

HOFFMAN 
Helping Hands

Youth Sponsor Car Wash

Purchase and Print Tickets Online and Have Your Car Washed at Your Convenience at Any Hoffman Car Wash

By Christy D'Ambrosio, Youth Director

The Youth at First Pres are sponsoring a Hoffman Car Wash Helping Hands fundraiser. The fastest and easiest way for us to sell car wash tickets is online at our custom home page on the Helping Hands website.

<http://www.hoffmanhelpinghands.com/fundraisers/fallwinterfundraiser>

Tickets will be delivered electronically to an email or mobile device. You can also see the progress we make on our home page. Please consider purchasing car wash tickets from us via our website and thank you, once again, for your support!



A little coffee hour music

miracle. Everything that happened is happening then and now. How this can be I do not know, yet it is so, and it is holy and terrible. Finally the girl and Sister walk out of the classroom together. The rest of us sat silently until the bell rang a few minutes later. We sat so still and quiet that you could almost hear the silence. Some silences have great weight.

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First Friday in October ...

Music Trevor Kahlbaugh, Organ Goes Baroque
Cobblestone, Americana Folk Group
Art Gail Hinchey, Mixed Media Collages



Coming Soon!

First Friday, November 4 ...

Rachmaninoff *Concerto for Cello and Piano* with Young Kim piano, David Bebe, piano; and chamber music featuring First Pres soloists; the art is "Troy at 200: a Photographic Celebration."

First Friday, December 2 ...

Music for Advent and Christmas, including *Christmas Oratorio* by Camille Saint-Saens. Featuring the First Presbyterian Bell Choir, the soloists and Chancel Choir soloists, and chamber orchestra

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A Letter from Haiti School “Very Bad Broke”

Editor’s note: The following letter concerns a school in Haiti that First Pres has supported in the past. The letter speaks for itself.

Dear friends and supporters of the Haiti Mission School...

It’s been said (at least a thousand times) that a picture is worth a thousand words. If that’s the case, these pictures are worth four thousand. These, sad to say, are pictures of the Haiti Mission School and Labastille Church following the recent hurricane in Haiti. The Haitians, using only three words to describe the situation, told us the school was “very bad broke”. Looking on the devastation, our hearts are also “very bad broke.”

JoEllen Parsons and Howard Nicols went to Haiti on Tuesday, Oct. 17. They brought some water purification systems, tarps, roofing nails, and other necessary supplies. They met with residents of the area to try to determine how their supporters in the U.S. can best assist them as they begin to rebuild their homes and lives. JoEllen and Howard want to pray with them, encourage them and remind them they are not forgotten.

School leadership tells us, “We have not as yet heard any news of our students or teachers. Communications with the area are just beginning to open up.

As to future plans, we are prayerfully waiting to see what God has in mind for us and the school. In the meantime, we join our Haitian brothers and sisters in thanking you for your continuing support and prayers.”

Donations can be sent to Haiti Mission School, PO Box 445, Lake Luzerne, NY 12846. Please mark them for hurricane relief.



First Presbyterian Church - Called by God to reduce the widening gap between rich and poor.



The First Presbyterian

Looking Ahead to the 2017 Volunteer Season Home Repair Project

By Christy D'Ambrosio

The Home Repair Project was busy this year. We started the season finishing off the Moore home (Last year the home was painted and vinyl sided) with a small plumbing project; two rooms were painted in the Mackey home along with a rug replacement; a descending outdoor staircase was created for Hhana Tarck Saqr; and now we are in the process of finishing the outdoor and beginning indoor painting at Mattie Lee White's home.

This year Home Repair Project committee was instrumental in helping procure a grant for Farrah Torres' moveable wheelchair ramp and applying for an ACDA grant to replace Mattie Lee White's roof. Mattie Lee's son, Johnny White, was refused a grant to rebuild his front porch, but with the help of some of the committee's construction gurus: John Myers, Lynn Ellsworth and Eric Fagans, we may get Johnny's porch replaced in 2017.

2017 promises to be an exciting year. We will finish painting the inside of Mattie Lee White's house, replace Johnny White's porch, and build steps and reside the outside of Ella Ferguson's home in the South End. Join us for this rewarding work. See you in the Spring!



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Deacons' Doings

Flock Together!

Sunday, December 4,
2016

By Bob Willower, Deacon

Our church family is divided into flocks created by geographical residence so that members can take care of each other. Each flock has been assigned Deacons to provide ministry to those in need.

After the 10:45 service on December 4, 2016, the Deacons will host a "Flock Together" event to honor and acknowledge their respective flocks.

On that Sunday you will notice a small sticker affixed to your name tag. These stickers of differing design and color will indicate the flock to which you have been assigned.

After the service during the coffee hour, we hope you will search out your flock members and exchange a greeting. Deacons will also be circulating to greet their respective flock members. As is our custom with celebratory moments in our church family, there will be a cake for all to share!



Save the Date
Friday, December 9,
6:00 pm

Potluck Supper and Carol Sing

By Jack Holmes, Coordinator

Christmas is a-coming and the goose is getting fat. Our

annual Christmas Potluck and Christmas Carol Sing-Along will be held Friday, December 9, at 6:00 pm. This is always a very popular evening, so be sure to look ahead and save the date. You will be invited to vote for your favorite Christmas Carols and to enjoy the fellowship and joy of singing together.



Ushers and Greeters

Nov 6	8:30 am	Bruce Brynolfson
	10:45 am	Team 3 – Keith Barber, David Haase, Bob Stevens, Linda Stevens
Nov 13	8:30 am	Ellen Eisenbraun
	10:45 am	Team 4 – Jeff Durgée, Ray Henrikson, Prudence Iyok, Rachel Smith, Roseline Takor
Nov 20	8:30 am	Jackie & Lynn Ellsworth
	10:45 am	Team 5 – Don Mark, David Pettis, Ron Pettis, Marilyn Riddle, Phillip Riddle, Barbara Woodruff
Nov 27	8:30 am	Mary Rogers
	10:45 am	Team 6 – Diane Cornell, Dee Dee Edwards, Lee Helsby, Harriet Seeley, Cynthia Winter

Deacons' Flower Ministry

Nov 6	Albany East – Joe Mathias, Jerry Nathan
Nov 13	Latham-Loudonville – Prudence Iyok, Ron Pettis, Peter Kimuli
Nov 20	Guilderland-Schenectady – Grace White, Ellen Kemp, Peg Schalit
Nov 27	Albany West – Judy Mark, Lee Helsby, Bob Willower

The Latham-Loudonville
Neighborhood Flock hosts
November Coffee Hours.
Fair Trade Market is Sunday, November 13.

November 2016

1 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

2 Wednesday

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

3 Thursday

7:00 am Men's Bible Study
 9:30 am *Music Together*
 4:30 pm Finance Committee
 6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

4 Friday

12:00 pm Newsletter deadline
 5:30 pm First Friday Art Display
 6:00 pm First Friday Concert

5 Saturday

9:00 am Tutor Training

6 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

7 Monday

6:00 pm *Music Together*
 6:30 pm Musical Rehearsal

8 Tuesday

6:00 am – 9:00 pm *Election Day*
 9:00 am Men's Bible Study

9 Wednesday

6:30 pm Small Group B
 7:30 pm Dads' Small Group

10 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

12 Saturday

1:00 pm *S.E.N.T. Board Meeting*

13 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
 Fair Trade Market

14 Monday

6:00 pm *Music Together*
 6:30 pm Musical Rehearsal

15 Tuesday

9:00 am Men's Bible Study
 10:00 am Clergy Gathering
 7:00 pm Session

16 Wednesday

12:00 pm JI/JO
 4:00 pm Presbytery Meeting
 7:00 pm *Zephyr Winds*
 7:15 pm Small Group B³

17 Thursday

7:00 am Men's Bible Study
 9:30 am *Music Together*
 12:00 pm Newsletter folders
 6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

18 Friday

6:00 pm Potluck Dinner

20 Sunday

8:30 am Worship (Communion)
 9:30 am Education for all ages
 9:45 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 10:45 am Worship (Communion) and
 New Member Recognition
 11:45 am Congregation Meeting
 12:00 pm Fellowship
 12:30 pm Special Choir Rehearsal
 1:00 pm *Vintage Pride*

21 Monday

6:00 pm *Music Together*
 1:00 pm *PEO*
 6:30 pm Musical Rehearsal

22 Tuesday

9:00 am Men's Bible Study

24 Thursday Thanksgiving

Office closed

25 Friday

Office closed

27 Sunday

8:30 am Worship (Communion)
 9:30 am Education for all ages
 9:30 am Inquirers Class
 9:45 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 10:45 am Worship
 11:45 am Fellowship

28 Monday

6:00 pm *Music Together*
 6:30 pm Musical Rehearsal

29 Tuesday

9:00 am Men's Bible Study
 7:00 pm Wizards Wardrobe
 Kick-off

30 Wednesday

6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal



AA Meeting Schedule

Daily 5:30 pm
 Wed 10:00 pm
 Thurs 7:30 pm

Get Well Group

Wed & Fri 7:30 pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Albany, NY 12210

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Lectionary

- Nov 6 Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost**
Haggai 1:15b—2:9 Psalm 145:1–5, 17–21 or Psalm 98
2 Thess 2:1-5 13-17 Luke 20:27–38
- Nov 13 Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost**
Isaiah 65:17–25 Isaiah 12
2 Thessalonians 3:6–13 Luke 21:5–19
- Nov 20 Reign of Christ / Christ the King**
Jeremiah 23:1–6 Luke 1:68–79
Colossians 1:11–20 Luke 23:33–43
- Nov 27 First Sunday of Advent**
Isaiah 2:1–5 Psalm 122
Romans 13:11–14 Matthew 24:36–44

See the Newsletter on line and in color at
www.firstpresalbany.org

Also see us on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

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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.