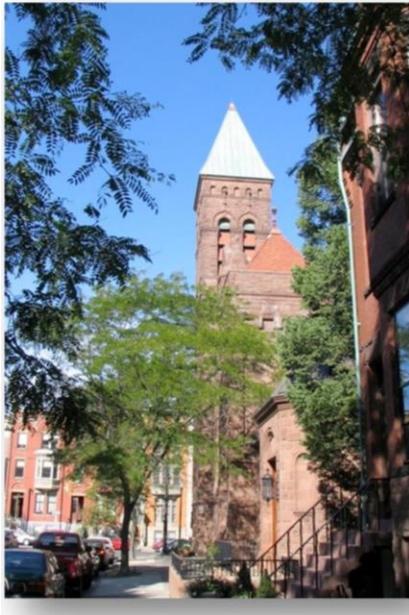




# The First Presbyterian Newsletter

Volume 72, Number 2

October 2016



But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house... Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness.  
-Psalm 5:7-8

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## The Ripple Effect Stewardship at First Presbyterian

By Stephanie Kite, Stewardship Committee, Co-Chair

### Consecration Sunday October 30, 2016

**A time for celebration!**  
A time for commitment  
**A time for choices**

A time for asking:  
**Where do I stand in my relationship with God?**  
Why am I a member at First Presbyterian?  
**What are my real needs?**  
What are my gifts?  
**How do I want to live my faith?**  
Why am I not pledging my talent or treasure?

Stewardship has a ripple effect  
through the life of our church  
and the lives of its members

Continued on p. 2, **Consecration Sunday**

### Consecration Sunday – A Celebration of Giving

Worship at 10:30 am, October 30

This service will conclude with the presentation of our pledges of support for First Pres in 2017

After worship you are invited to a savory lunch and a simple service project as we assemble packets of supplies for every classroom at Giffen Memorial Elementary School in Albany, our partner in education.

Teachers should not have to pay for such things themselves!

# 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

## **Consecration Sunday, Continued from p. 1**

On Sunday, October 30, with one service at 10:30, the First Presbyterian congregation will gather to celebrate Consecration Sunday and the joy of sharing our God-given blessings in ministry during the coming year. Once again each of us will have the opportunity to prayerfully discern with God what we will share in the year to come. We will be called to examine our talents AND treasures, and to determine which and how much of these we can do without, which and how much of these are needed elsewhere, which and how much of these we are willing to risk giving up. The service this year will include a small surprise: a joyful expression of the spiritual meaning of us sharing our gifts – please have an open heart and mind, ready to participate to whatever extent you are comfortable with!

After the service, we will adjourn to the Assembly Hall for a ministry project. This year we will be assembling classroom necessity gift bags for each teacher at our partner school; Giffen Elementary and small tokens of appreciation for all the teachers and staff at Giffen. There will be baking, note-writing, and the filling of the shopping bags. While we work, there will be a number of finger foods and beverages for your enjoyment.

This is my sixth and final year co-chairing the stewardship committee, as I will rotate off Session this January making room on the board for a new person with different ideas and energy and God-given talents. As I reflect on my time on this committee I am grateful for the numerous interactions with so many of you, the experiences, and the conversations that have over and over again shown me God in our midst. I am awed and humbled by how many of you do pledge to the best and beyond of your ability, how many of you do ministry week in and week out, how many of you strengthen my faith and my gratitude to God by your example. However, it is unfortunate that we still hover around 35% of members not pledging financially or ministerially. It is not my business why members chose not to participate, but it has been my responsibility to let every member know of the need for their participation and then to give every member the opportunity to do so.

What I don't understand is how our committee has failed over the years to communicate the many needs that your financial and service pledges could help alleviate in our church, our community, and our world. So I ask those of you not choosing to make a financial or service pledge to please consider what you would respond to? What ministry does interest you? How would you like your money to be spent by First Pres? What is it that draws you to be a member of First Presbyterian and how would you like to deepen that relationship? Please contact either Pastor Miriam or Pastor Glenn to discuss your thoughts. If you prefer to speak to someone on the Stewardship Committee, please contact me at [secarroll@hotmail.com](mailto:secarroll@hotmail.com), and I will put you in touch with the member of your choice. Thank you!

# The First Presbyterian

## Peace and Global Witness Offering

The theme for this year's Peacemaking Offering is "Can God spread a table in the wilderness?"—Psalm 78:19

The 221st General Assembly (2014) approved transforming the Peacemaking Offering into the Peace & Global Witness Offering to build on the rich tradition of our church's commitment to peacemaking as well as to engage with our global partners in new initiatives of reconciliation. This offering is one of four offerings our denomination receives annually. The Peace & Global Witness Offering, still received on Peacemaking Sunday, will strengthen collaboration with churches and mission partners all over the world. Together we will support efforts to inspire, equip, and connect Presbyterians engaging in ministries of reconciliation, peace and mutual respect and caring in response to cultures of racial and economic inequality and violence, including our own.



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

This offering is being received during worship on October 2, which is World Communion Sunday. As we break bread on that day, this offering will help to spread the peace of Christ around the world. If you are unable to give on that day, please send in your gift to the church office and mark your check "Peace Offering." The need for peace and reconciliation is so great in these times! Please join First Pres in making our contribution to this global effort.

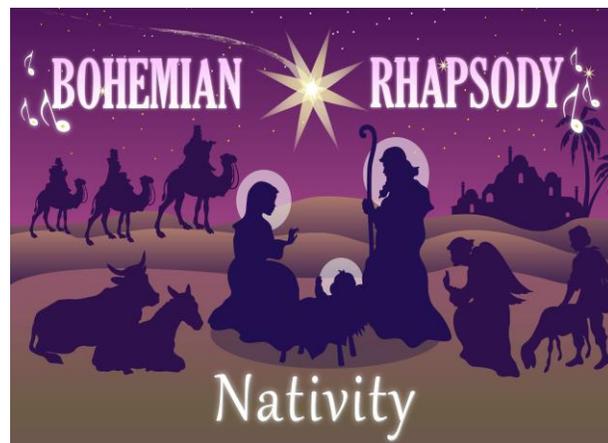
Twenty-five percent of what we receive will be kept at First Pres for projects that address peace and assist our efforts to reduce the widening gap between those at the top and those struggling to make ends meet. Through the years, many groups and agencies have received our portion of this offering. This year our portion of the offering will be sent on to two interfaith, compassion-based ministries in the Capital District.

Continued on p. 7, **Peace Offering**

## Bohemian Rhapsody Christmas Pageant

By Christy D'Ambrosio

**It's not too late to join the cast!** All youth and children are invited to join the cast for this year's annual musical, *The Bohemian Rhapsody Nativity*. This production is a Rock Opera Christmas Pageant. There are so many roles to fill, but we have a part and a costume for everyone! You have only missed two rehearsals, so join us Monday evening at 6:30 for great fun and a superb musical theatrical experience. Performance is scheduled for Sunday, December 11, after second service.



# The First Presbyterian

**The Fall's first First Friday! Bring a friend!**

First Fridays at First Presbyterian

An Experience of Visual and Musical Art

Friday, October 7, 2016

*Trevor Kahlbaugh*

*Organ Goes Baroque*

Works by Buxtehude, Handel,  
and Bach



*Cobblestone*

Americana group from  
Upstate New York bringing  
their own flavor of folk to the  
Albany scene and beyond

*In the Gallery:*

Mixed Media Collages

by Gail Hinchin



Concert begins at 6:00 pm

Art Gallery hours: 5:30 ~ 8:00 pm

Pause Here a Moment...

## Radical Politics?

*Editor's note: This article from Sojourners Magazine is by Fr. Richard Rohr, a globally recognized ecumenical teacher "bearing witness to the universal awakening within Christian mysticism." He is a Franciscan priest of the New Mexico Province and founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Visit [sojo.net](http://sojo.net)*

There is a lot of talk today about "radical" politics. Depending on your political affiliation, the candidates on the other side often look "radical" and "extreme." "Radical" comes from the Latin word *radix*, meaning "root." For something to be "radical" it should cut to the root of our problems, which politics rarely does.

True religion is radical. It moves us beyond our "private I" and into full reality. Jesus seems to be saying the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) that our inner attitudes and states are the real sources of our problems. We need to root out the problems at that level. Jesus says not only that you must not kill, but that you must not even harbor hateful anger. He clearly begins with the necessity of a "pure heart" (Matthew 5:8) and knows that the outer behavior will follow. Too often we force the outer and the inner remains like a cancer.

If you walk around with hatred all day, morally you're just as much a killer as the one who pulls out the gun. We can't live that way and not be destroyed. Yet, for some reason, many Christians have thought they could think and feel hatred, negativity, and fear. The evil and genocide of World War II was the final result of decades of negative and paranoid thinking among good

German Christians. The tragic fascism of Nazi Germany was fomenting in people's hearts long before a political leader came to catalyze their hate and resentment.

Jesus tells us to not harbor hateful anger or call people names in our hearts like "fool" or "worthless person" (Matthew 5:22). If we're walking around all day thinking, "What an idiot he is," we're living out of death, not life. If that's what we think and feel, that's what we will be—death energy instead of life force. Apparently we cannot afford even inner disconnection from love. How we live in our hearts is our real truth.

In Matthew 5:44, Jesus insists that we love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. For Jesus, prayer seems to be a matter of *waiting in love, returning to love, trusting that love is the unceasing stream of reality*. Prayer isn't primarily words; it's a place, an attitude, a stance. That's why Paul could say, "Pray unceasingly" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). If we think of prayer as requiring words, it is surely impossible to pray always. Once we recognize that whatever we do in conscious, loving union with Reality is prayer, we can better understand what Paul means.

Political movements or leaders today that promote fear, hate and bigotry are only able to rise because all of these things were first in the hearts of the people. If we mobilize to fight these sorts of political movements and fail to address the underlying matters of the heart, then we will only every cut off one head of the Hydra to watch it grown many more.

### *You are cordially invited for Feasting and Fellowship*

Come to the next Friday Potluck Supper on October 21 at 6:00 pm. We will be featuring fabulous food and fantastic fellowship. Be sure to sign up with the church office (449-7332) to guarantee the best choice seating and let us know what you will bring to show off your culinary skills. Please note that culinary skills are not required.

# The First Presbyterian

## Shepherding our Place of Worship

By Stephanie Kite, Chair, Property Committee

The Property Committee has been busy overseeing many projects during the last couple of months. We hope that you have noticed at least a few of them. Here are some details.

The Stanley Steamer crew did an excellent job shampooing and stain-guarding the carpets in Assembly Hall, Sanctuary (none of us can remember the last time this was cleaned, if ever), and the Main Office. Additionally, all of the pew cushions have been shampooed and stain-guarded! This was surely a first, but they needed a good cleaning and look great now. While the cushions were drying in Assembly Hall (see photo), all of the pews were given a thorough cleaning. We hope that you notice a fresher atmosphere throughout these areas.

The first week in September marked the end of the extensive re-construction and remodeling of our Music Director Michael Lister's office. You might recall that there had been a leaking roof drain pipe in the wall in that office last year. A new cast iron pipe was installed, and a new chase was built to conceal it. The office was then given a fresh coat of paint, the damaged floor was replaced, and Michael chose new carpeting. A few shelves and a bit of re-configuring the furniture have resulted in an organized and pleasant room for Michael and the choir to enjoy.

The ongoing, major project we are now immersed in is the renovation of the basement kitchen and bathroom coupled with the repair of the deteriorated floor at the bottom of the basement stairs. This space has been an area of need for quite some time. The committee has been planning on these renovations for a few years, and we designated some funds in this year's budget for such a programmed improvement. The basement is primarily used by First Presbyterian for storage, but we have a

significant ministry occurring down there seven days a week, year-round. Approximately 350-400 people attend AA meetings each week in this space. The attendees include two youth groups with the balance of the meetings open to anyone. This is a major expense for First Presbyterian, and we hope that you will take a quick walk down sometime in the next few weeks to see for yourself why we are committed to making this a pleasant, functional space for the people who come in each week. All of the AA contacts have expressed immense gratitude on behalf of the people who use the space, and we are working with them to cause the least disruption to their meetings.

We'd like you to know that careful consideration was given to containing the expenses involved; we obtained multiple bids for the project, have done most of the demolition work in-house, and are simplifying both areas to reduce re-construction expenses while providing flexible space for future use of these rooms. We hope that you appreciate both the need for this project and how it serves to do God's work in our community. The work will be completed in time for the Equinox Thanksgiving Dinner Dessert Café attendees. See more photos on p. 10.



The pew cushions were shampooed and then dried in Assembly Hall.

# The First Presbyterian

*Peace Offering cont. from p. 3*

**The Emmaus House** is housing immigrants that have come to the Capital District in a project called RISSE which stands for Refugee and Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus. This is a program that offers daily help with learning English, reading, youth support, teaching driving, driving to appointments and job placement. RISSE shelters and supports about 600 refugees and immigrants every year and is affiliated with Emmaus Methodist Church, which itself serves a multicultural and multi-denominational community of people year round.

**The Muslim Soup Kitchen** was started in 2003 by a group of students at RPI. Since then it has grown from a small effort to alleviate hunger in our area homeless shelters to a nationwide network of people on a mission to feed and nourish the needy. The Kitchen's aim is to feed not just Muslims, but anyone who is hungry. The Masjid-Al-Salaam is the place from which this feeding effort is coordinated. The group's approximately 200 volunteers include cooks, drivers and shoppers who work together seamlessly, and, on one Saturday each month, they deliver enough food to the shelters in Troy, Albany and Schenectady to feed 500 hungry people.

Peace can be spread in many ways. These two organizations are doing just that. First Pres is "making peace" through its mission partners and through countless acts of love and compassion. Your gift will help us do even more. Thank you for your commitment.



## Adult Education in October

### What's a Belhar?

The Adult Education Class in October will feature a look at two statements of faith or confessions that connect to this year's General Assembly meeting in Portland, Oregon. The first is the Belhar Confession. This confession was added to our denomination's Constitution Part 1 – The Book of Confessions. This is a collection of significant faith statements created over the last 2,000 years in different places and for differing reasons. They range from the short (Apostle's Creed) to the long and detailed (Westminster Confession). Until the addition of Belhar, none had been written in the Southern Hemisphere. This confession is named for the place it was created: Belhar, South Africa. As the church was the place where the Apartheid system was invented, it is fitting that the path to getting rid of it also started in the church with this document.

We are also nearing the 50 year anniversary of another one of our confessions, the Confession of 1967. A time to reflect on this confession was included in this year's General Assembly. This confession was created during the social turmoil of the 1960s when many in the church believed it was time for the church to say what it valued and believed. These two confessions will be the focus of conversation on October 2 and 16. Eric Fagans will lead the class on October 9 and Stephanie Kite will lead a creative class on October 23 as we prepare for Consecration Sunday on the 30<sup>th</sup>, a Sunday when there are no 9:30 classes. The two confessions will also be discussed in November.

## REMINDER!

***On Sunday, October 2, First Presbyterian will joyfully celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the blessing of the ministry of Co-Pastors Drs. Miriam Lawrence Leupold and Glenn Leupold with a luncheon after the 10:45 service. The deadline for responding was September 23, but because this is such an auspicious occasion, please email or call the office today (assuming you are reading this on September 30 or before) and leave your name and the number of your family attending if you are able to join in on the festivities. Come with your gratitude and appreciation for all that Miriam and Glenn have shared with our congregation and our larger community!***

# The First Presbyterian

## New Pictorial Directories Available!

If you don't have yours yet, the new Pictorial Directories are located in the Assembly Hall on the round table near the coat hangers. Pick yours up soon!

We know there will be constant changes to your information. Please let the office know of anything you need changed, and we'll put out a list of those changes along with information on our new members twice a year. The format will be set up so you can easily cut them out and put them right in the back of your directory - that's what the blank pages are for.

Special thanks to Sue Bartle in the office for her immense amount of typing corrections and setting up pages. Also to Miriam Lawrence Leupold and Bruce Brynolfson who worked with Sue, and our paparazzi extraordinaire Richard Gascoyne and Tim O'Toole. And to all of you who were so cooperative in having your pictures taken and checking your listings - we thank you!

## The Upper Rooms this month

In The Upper Rooms (our Christian education program for children in kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade): Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> graders are continuing the rotation "Moses: Baby in a Basket" exploring Exodus 1:15-2:10. Workshops and teachers include: Sinai Stage with Prudence Iyok, Galilee Gallery with Linda Stevens, Jericho Theater with Deb Fagans, Tower of Scrabble with David Nichols, Memory on the Mount with John Myers. The 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders are discussing questions of faith.



## New Member classes

Have you been visiting First Presbyterian? Are you interested in learning more about First Pres? Have you been worshipping with us and are interested in learning about becoming a member? If so, please plan to attend two Inquirer Classes on Sundays, October 16 and 23, from 9:30-10:30 in the Library. Come explore with Pastor Miriam church membership and your hopes and dreams for where you can serve God. Those people who decide to join will be recognized in worship on Sunday, November 20. Register to attend by calling the church office (449-7332). If you have any questions contact Miriam at the church.



## It takes a church to raise a child!

Consider teaching Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Graders this fall or winter in The Upper Rooms. Teachers commit to teach **two** Sundays. Interested but not quite sure what this is all about? Stop by The Upper Rooms on Sundays at 9:30 and see what's going on. It's easier than ever to get there, now that we have an elevator! Adults are always welcome to sit in on a class to see what The Upper Rooms are all about. If you'd like to teach, a sign-up sheet is located in the Assembly Hall. You provide yourself, your faith, and your time for two Sundays. You're provided with training, supplies, curriculum and an opportunity to get to know the children of the church better. Any questions, contact Pastor Miriam.

# The First Presbyterian

## Home Repair Project

Much remains to be done!

By Christy D'Ambrosio

Volunteers for the Home Repair Project will meet some new residents this fall:

- Mattie White (home at right) is 80 years old and owns her home in North Albany. It is in need of some basic repair and quite a bit of painting, inside & out.
- Ella Ferguson (home at right, below) lives in the South End. The side and back of her home requires siding and a new stair case from the second floor back door to the backyard.



We are just starting on these projects. Christy D'Ambrosio (christy@firstpresalbany.org or 423-4763) is managing the White project and Eric Fagans (edfagans@me.com or 776-0664) is managing the Ferguson project. Please consider lending a hand. Contact Christy or Eric depending on your skill set and interest. Work days will be announced in the bulletin and continue throughout the fall. Thanks for your help!



### High School Christian Education Class Curriculum this Fall

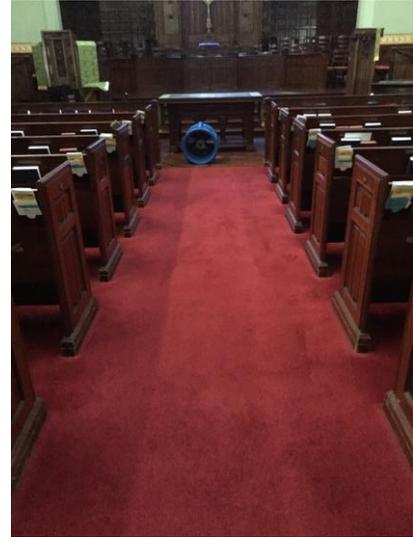
This year the Senior High Class is examining *Terrorism/Fanaticism/Hate*; important issues for the current global climate, but how does this relate to our faith? High School age youth, Freshman through Seniors, come to class and find out. Sunday mornings. 9:30 am. Second Floor. See you there!

# The First Presbyterian

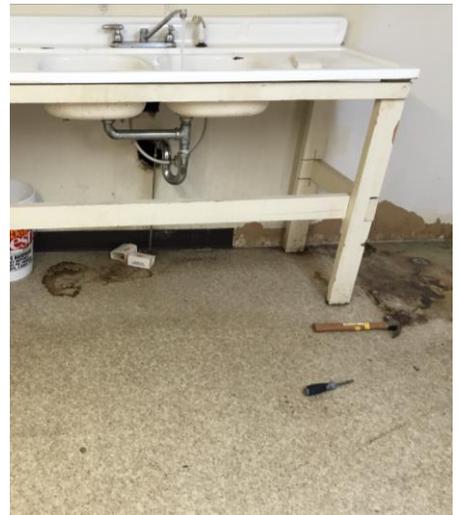


Michael's office new cast iron drain pipe.

Taking good care of our beautiful sanctuary.



A kitchen in need of some updating.



Despite being a welcoming church, we quickly hired a professional to safely remove our uninvited squirrel visitor, but unfortunately not before it had some alone time to leave its mark on some of the Rose Room window sashes. The sanding repair is complete, staining to come soon. Thank you to Sue Bartle for being on her toes and noticing the squirrel before it found the organ leathers!



This is where the water from the leak in the Music Director's office ended up. The leak was the straw that broke the camel's back regarding our re-organizing priorities to make renovating the basement #1.

## October 2016

For details on the October calendar, be sure to visit our website, [www.firstpresalbany.org](http://www.firstpresalbany.org). Click on the calendar and you will see all the activities coming up at FPC this fall!

### Highlights of October

**Mondays at 6:30 pm**  
Musical Rehearsal

**Thursdays at 6:00 pm**  
Bell Choir Rehearsal

**Thursdays at 7:30 pm**  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Tuesday, October 4**  
5:30 pm Committee Night

**Friday, October 7**  
5:30 pm First Friday Art Display  
6:00 pm First Friday Concert

**Tuesday, October 11**  
6:45 pm Deacons

**Friday, October 14**  
12:00 pm Newsletter Deadline

**Tuesday, October 18**  
7:00 pm Session

**Friday, October 21**  
6:00 pm Potluck Dinner

**Thursday, October 27**  
12:00 pm Newsletter Folders

**Sunday, October 30**  
Consecration Sunday  
10:30 am Worship (Communion)

### 12 Step Groups that Meet at FPC

#### AA Meeting Schedule

5:30 pm Daily  
10:00 pm Wednesday  
7:30 pm Thursday

#### Get Well Group

7:30 pm Wednesday  
7:30 pm Friday

### Ushers and Greeters

- Oct 2** 8:30 Ellen Eisenbraun  
10:45 Team 5 - Carol Bullard, David Pettis, Ron Pettis, Marilyn Riddle, Phillip Riddle, Barbara Woodruff
- Oct 9** 8:30 Jackie & Lynn Ellsworth  
10:45 Team 6 - Diane Cornell, Dee Dee Edwards, Lee Helsby, Harriet Seeley, Cynthia Winter
- Oct 16** 8:30 Mary Rogers  
10:45 Team 7 - Carol Bullard, Joseph Mathias, Alice Schrade, Deb Shoup, Ann Songayllo
- Oct 23** 8:30 John Myers  
10:45 Team 1 - FPC Youth
- Oct 30** 10:30 Team 2 - J. Coley, Joanne Gascoyne, Dick Gascoyne, David Hannay

### Deacons' Flower Ministry

- Oct 2** Latham-Loudonville - Prudence Iyok, Peter Kimuli, Ron Pettis
- Oct 9** Rensselaer-East - Diane Cornell, Leslie Roccario, Deb Shoup
- Oct 16** Guilderland-Schenectady - Ellen Kemp, Peg Schalit, Grace White
- Oct 23** Albany West - Lee Helsby, Judy Mark, Bob Willower
- Oct 30** Delmar - Gail Scott, Barbara Woodruff, Margaret Zettle

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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Albany, NY 12210

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## The First Presbyterian

### Lectionary

Oct 2	Lamentations 1:1-6 2 Timothy 1:1-14	Psalm 37:1-9 Luke 17:5-10
Oct 9	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 2 Timothy 2:8-15	2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c Luke 17:11-19
Oct 16	Jeremiah 31:27-34 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5	Genesis 32:22-31 Luke 18:1-8
Oct 23	Joel 2:23-32 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18	Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22 Luke 18:9-14
Oct 30	Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 2 Thess. 1:1-4, 11-12	Isaiah 1:10-18 Luke 19:1-10

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

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

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*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.