



The First Presbyterian Newsletter

Volume 72, Number 1

September 2016



Moses in Washington Park

The Lord said to Moses: You shall keep my sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, given in order that you may know that I, the Lord, sanctify you. Exodus 31:12-13

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Sunday, September 11, 9:30 am Worship in the Park!

Come and join worship in the great outdoors on September 11! This is the final “summer schedule” Sunday, and we’ll gather in Washington Park at 9:30 for worship, followed by the big picnic in Assembly Hall.

Something new this year: September means that school is starting up for several in our congregation. With this in mind, we invite all children and youth to bring their school backpacks to this outdoor worship. During the service, we’ll have a time of blessing the backpacks and the students for the year ahead. Adults who are teachers, staff, volunteers or administrators in any kind of school are also encouraged to bring their backpack/briefcase/bag with them to this service for a time of blessing.

As we begin a new school year, we are called by God to be disciples who love one another in whatever setting we find ourselves. Education is one of God’s most important gifts and a Presbyterian value for centuries. In case of rain, the service will be held in the sanctuary. Bring a friend!

On September 18, worship will be held at 8:30 and 10:45 am. Between worship services is the education hour, with a class for all ages.



Sept. 11, 9:30 am - Worship in the Park, followed by Picnic

Fall Programming Begins Sunday, September 18

- 8:30 am Communion worship around the table
- 9:30 am Classes for all ages -- There is a class for you!
- 10:45 am Worship with full music program

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

Whatchu up to this fall?

The Outreach & Mission Committee hopes you join in two South End tutoring programs - that's what!!

One is our ongoing commitment to put tutors in Giffen Memorial Elementary School to work with teachers in the classrooms. This will be our 5th year! This occurs during the school day for 1 to 2 hours and the tutors help in any way the teacher requests. This can be working with an individual student or small groups in or out of the classroom. The teacher provides the work. If you have been tutoring and you wish to continue, contact your teacher after the year begins to set up your schedule. To begin, please contact Deb Fagans (371-0131 or edfagans@mac.com).

The other opportunity is Wizard's Wardrobe after school tutoring. This is an exciting new program that can make a difference in a student's life. You will work with the same student every week for 1 1/2 hours once or twice a week and have the chance to design your own lessons. We have started collecting resource materials and already have 400+ books.

Wizard's Wardrobe will concentrate on reading and writing skills and will produce books written by the students. It will take place in a creative atmosphere in space provided by the Albany Housing Authority at 20 Rensselaer Street, down from the school. We hope to have the space completed by the beginning of October so we can start our tutoring there. However, if the space is not ready, Mrs. Brown will allow us to use some classrooms in the school until it is.

In order to be a tutor in this program, you will need to attend our initial training session which will be held on Saturday, September 17, from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM. We hope to be able to do this at our tutoring space, but will let you know if we need to change the location. Applications for Wizard's Wardrobe are outside the church office near the mission bulletin board or at the back of the sanctuary. Please fill one out and return it to the church office. In either program, you need to be certified or vetted to participate:

If you want to volunteer at Giffen, please go to <http://www.albanyschools.org/templates/Volunteers/2012-13/Volunteer.application.1-13.pdf> and print these two pages, fill them out and mail to Fiona Thompson, whose address is on the second page. It takes about 2 weeks for this process, so if you are planning to start tutoring at the end of September or beginning of October, take that into consideration.

For tutoring in the Wizard's Wardrobe, you need to go to http://www.coeusglobal.com/council_nycon_sentutors.html Once on the website, indicate whether you would like to pay the fee or have the program pay. It is perfectly fine to have us pay. It's a little tricky filling out the form because you must back up a screen and then come back in order to sign it.

Another Way to support the Wizard's Wardrobe

If you are doing any Amazon shopping and would like to support the Wizard's Wardrobe, please consider visiting Amazon by first going to <http://smile.amazon.com> and finding South End Neighborhood Tutors and then placing your order. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the sales to our program.

What Does Your Membership at First Presbyterian Mean To You?

Are You Truly Involved in The Life of Your Church?

Stephanie Kite, Stewardship Committee Co-Chair

When you tell yourself that you are a member at First Presbyterian, what do you mean? What does your membership entail? Do you consider yourself an active member? Do you call upon the co-pastors when you want to arrange your child's baptism or a family member's funeral? Are you present for weekly Sunday worship? Does membership mean a church to go to on Easter or Christmas Eve? What mission activities do you participate in? How do you contribute to the life of your church? How do you define stewardship and how do you act as a steward of your God-given gifts?

These are questions for all of us to please ponder. Your answers help define First Presbyterian and help determine how we go about doing God's work to the best of our ability.

The congregation of First Presbyterian will celebrate our blessings and the life of our church on Sunday, October 30, with one

worship service that morning. The service will be followed by a celebration of our many gifts and our choice to share them with our church and our fellow human beings.

YOUR PRESENCE IN CHURCH THAT MORNING IS ESSENTIAL TO THE LIFE OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN. Consecration Sunday is as important as every other Sunday. The tradition of coming together as a congregation to celebrate what God has given is no less important than coming to church to celebrate the Risen Lord on Easter or coming to church on Christmas Eve. So many of us want First Pres to be there for us when we need it; we need to learn that we must also be there when our church needs us, needs our commitment to the life of the church and to the work of God. Frankly, attending on Easter Sunday and Christmas Eve just doesn't cut it. We all are much too valuable, have too much to offer, to limit our participation to those two worship services.

Thanks, First Pres!

Editor's note: In a letter dated June 17 of this year, Ms. Minitria Elisabeth Slade, Orchestra Director at Giffen Elementary School, sent the following note:

Dear First Presbyterian Church Reverends, Board and Congregation:

On behalf of Giffen Memorial Elementary School Orchestra, the students and I would like to thank you so much for the tremendous generosity that you have shown to us through your repair of instruments through the John Keal Music Company and Mr. Chris Trombley; for the performance opportunities at Giffen Author Illustrator Day; providing for the kids to be mentored last year through church member and beloved retired string teacher Mrs. Peggy Schalit; for the supportive presence of Mr. and Mrs. Fagans and your love through your presence at our concerts.

You have TRULY been wonderful to us. Without you, our Orchestra enrollment would not have been able to grow to the size that it is today. This year we have a total of 33 students in Giffen Memorial Elementary School's Orchestra Program and we expect more students to enroll in 2016-2017. Giffen Orchestra and I love you and always will. You have truly been a great blessing. With your support, the kids and I truly hope that we can be a blessing to others through our performance and love of music.

Sincerely and with love,

Giffen Elementary String Orchestra and Ms. Slade

The First Presbyterian

New York Becomes 17th State

Call for Amendment to Rein-in Election Spending

By Carol Bullard, Member, NY4Democracy Coalition; Outreach and Mission Committee



June 15, 2016, represented a very happy, very historic moment! Activist citizens gathered at the state Capitol to announce that NY had just become the 17th state to call for a constitutional amendment to overturn the U.S. Supreme Court's disastrous *Citizens United v. FEC* ruling. For more than three years many of us—including members from FPC—had signed petitions and attended rallies in support of the NY4Democracy Coalition's efforts to convince our state legislators that it was time to add NY to the growing number of states that had already signaled to Congress their support of an amendment.

With a bipartisan majority in both the Senate and Assembly, a successful outcome was achieved. Especially noteworthy is the fact that NY became the first state with at least one Republican-controlled state legislative chamber to call for such an amendment. This win could pave the way for more states with Republican-controlled legislatures to take a stand against corporations and the donor class who are capturing control of our elections.

The Republican state lawmakers in New York who supported this effort said they did so because they understand that big money interests are hijacking our democracy. As Republican State Sen. Phil Boyle, who wrote and circulated the Republican Senate letter for an amendment, stated: "Quite simply, there is no more critical foundation to our democracy than to ensure citizens have free and fair elections."

With 80 percent of Republicans and 78 percent of Americans nationally supporting overturning Citizens United, we know that grassroots support is definitely on the rise. So, too, is the amount of attention being given the issue by our presidential candidates. Support for an amendment is gaining traction in Congress as well. Something once deemed unwinnable is now a mainstream issue that leaders in Congress are finally willing to prioritize.

Please accept my personal thanks and the gratitude of the NY4Democracy Coalition for helping us to get this far. I said that you would be making a difference by becoming involved—and indeed you did!

The First Presbyterian

The Home Repair Project - Restoring Homes and Healing Spirits

We've Been Working This Summer!

Christy D'Ambrosio, Youth Director

It's been a very productive and satisfying summer for the Home Repair Project. Here is our report in a nutshell:

The Moores home project was a difficult one, a three story home on an incline. The house needed a new porch, front steps, painting, new siding, and finally, some plumbing work. With a little professional help we finally completed the project.

Hhana Tarck Saqr lives alone and has some trouble getting around. Her front and back yard were overgrown with weeds, and the backyard has a steep incline, which was difficult for her to manage. Last summer a crew completely landscaped the front and side yard with patio stone and rock so that there would be less maintenance required, and we built a small deck outside her back door. This summer, Eric and Deb Fagans, along with Will McMorris and Jason Coley, built descending steps, which enable Hhana to descend into the garden and pick strawberries and raspberries.

Farrah Torres's daughter is disabled. During the 2014 Group Work Camp, a crew of a dozen or more built a ramp off her rental unit with the landlord's permission. Unfortunately, Farrah was forced out of her rental unit and was again without a proper wheelchair ramp. With the help of a grant from the organization "Jake's Help from Heaven," a moveable ramp was installed. Farrah will be able to take this ramp with her if she needs to make another move in the future.

The Rev. and Mrs. Mackey wanted to repaint their living room and office. The walls were cracked, some with holes, and suffered from multiple layers of peeling paint. Both rooms were scraped clean, spackled and repainted. New carpets were laid and the result, just lovely.

Many thanks to this year's crew: David Haase, Hugh and Vaughn Nevin, Leslie, Dwight and John Cheu, Prudence, Arthur and Daniel Iyok, Lydia Green, Killala Kite, Ron

Geuther, Andrew and Laura Montgomery, Amy and Jordan Scarlett, Annabel and Helen Lewis, and Rachel Smith.

And let's not forget--A BIG THANK YOU to the Home Depot Foundation for their very generous grant this year, which has enabled us to continue our work and achieve results beyond anything we had hoped!



- Above - Dionne Moore sitting on her new front steps
- Center - Hhana Tarck Saqr with Deb and Eric Fagans
- Below - Rev. and Ann Mackey



The First Presbyterian

Presbyterian Youth Triennium
Purdue University, July 18 – 23, 2016

Teach Me The Way I Should Go

By Christy D'Ambrosio, Youth Director

“GO: GO and see, GO and do likewise, Teach me the way I should GO. and Let my people GO.” That was the theme this year of the Presbyterian Youth Triennium.

The Triennium is a week long event involving 5,000-6,000 youth. The delegates come from all over the country and beyond to Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN, where they meet for fellowship and worship.

Twenty-six youth and four adults from the Albany and Northern New York Presbyteries boarded the bus for the overnight trip to Purdue University. The delegation from First Pres included seven youth: Mia & Maggie Robinson, Lauren Kuo, Katie Lamar, Akap Takor, Jordan Scarlett, and Imani Elad) and two adults: Dave Haase and Christy D'Ambrosio.

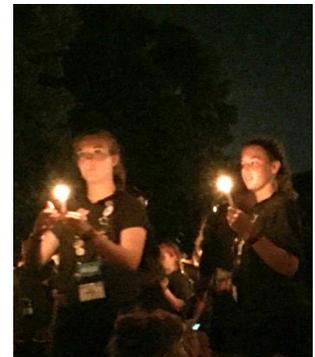
We departed from Albany for the more than fourteen hour drive on Monday, July 18, and arrived Tuesday, July 19 to begin a week of singing, dancing, worshipping, eating, hanging out, meeting lots of other folks, and just generally having a fabulous time! Oh yes, there was some learning. It was a tremendous experience for everyone.

Each photo here speaks a 1,000 words. For many more words, photos and videos, check out the following websites:

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/The-Youth-of-the-First-Presbyterian-Church-of-Albany-170249029728418/?fref=ts
- Albany Presbytery website: <http://albanypresbytery.org/youth-thank-albany-presbytery/>



Above, worship by day; below, worship at night



Imani (above left), Mia (above on left) and Maggie (above on right) at candlelight worship, Jerry and Dave (below left), Mia, Lauren, Sofia, and Imani (below right).



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Presbyterian Youth Triennium
Purdue University, July 18- 23
**Teach Me The Way
I Should Go**



(Clockwise from fountain)

- Getting a little wet
- Arthur and Lauren
- Katie, thumbs up
- Jordan, Arthur, Lauren, Maggie, Imani, Daniel, Akap and friends
- Lauren, Jordan and Arthur with signs
- Albany Presbyterian Delegation

The First Presbyterian

Monday, September 12, 6:30 PM
Calling All Youth and Children (K-12)
Bohemian Rhapsody Nativity

Join the Musical Cast

By Christy D'Ambrosio, Youth Director

This year's annual Youth Musical will be a Christmas Rock Opera entitled *Bohemian Rhapsody Nativity*. We will be casting all parts for a typical Christmas



Saint-Saens, Christmas Oratorio Rehearsals to Begin

By Michael Lister, Music Director

On Friday, December 2, the musicians of First Presbyterian Church will present a concert celebrating the season of Advent and Christmas. This concert will include music from the Bell Choir as well as a performance of the *Christmas Oratorio* by Camille Saint-Saens, one of the greatest French composers of all time. 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 September, October, and November 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. You are also more than welcome to join the choir regularly beginning on Thursday, September 15, 7:30 pm, for our weekly choir rehearsals. We hope that you can join us for this moving musical masterpiece.

Pageant: Mary, Joseph, Angels, Shepherds, King Herod, various manger animals, and an entire flock of sheep. There will be a part and a costume for **everyone!**

Please come to the first Cast meeting on Monday, September 12, 6:30. Don't miss this extraordinary opportunity to perform with a combination orchestra and rock band as well as other professional performers from our church community and beyond.

Feel free to contact Christy D'Ambrosio (christy@firstpresalbany.org or 423-4763) with questions or concerns.

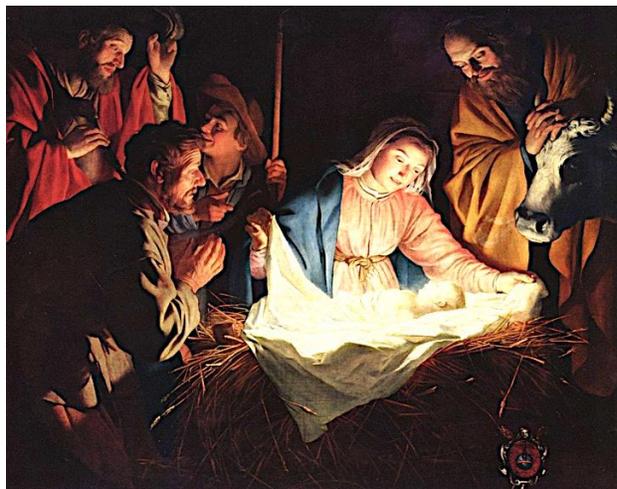
The Upper Rooms

Moses: Baby in a Basket

Will You Teach for Two Weeks?

In The Upper Rooms (our Christian education program for children in kindergarten through 8th grade), a new rotation begins Sunday, September 18 and runs through October 23. For Kindergarten through 5th graders, this rotation's theme is "Moses: Baby in a Basket" and the children will explore Exodus 1:15-2:10 through movie, art, computer, drama and music, and worship.

If you're interested in teaching for two weeks in one of the upcoming rotations, contact Pastor Miriam. The 6th through 8th graders begin their middle school curriculum dealing with questions of faith.



Educational Grants Awarded to First Pres Scholars

By Carol Bullard, Membership Committee Chair

Presbyterian tradition has long recognized and valued the importance of education and training for the development and enhancement of the many gifts, talents and abilities that God bestows on God's people.

One way in which First Presbyterian Church has re-enforced this foundational belief is through the educational awards it makes available each year to its members.

Our congregation is truly blessed with many talented, highly motivated young people and adults, enrolled at educational institutions or centers where they are engaged in a wide variety of disciplines including political science, criminal justice, brain and cognitive science, dental hygiene, equine business management, education, creative writing, music, psychotherapy and the ministry.

Please join the Membership Committee in congratulating this year's recipients, each of whom has been awarded \$500 to be used toward tuition, books, or related educational expenses:

- Eleanor Haase (University at Rochester)
- David Haase (Samaritan Counseling Center)
- Araglin Kite (University at Albany, SUNY)
- Liam Kite (Marist College)
- Katharine Lamar (SUNY at Purchase)
- Margaret Leupold (University of Rhode Island)
- Elizabeth Leupold (SUNY at New Paltz)
- Annabel Lewis (Northeastern University)
- Helen Lewis (SUNY at Fredonia)
- Katharine Myers (Hudson Valley Community College)
- Samuel Rogers (American University)
- Jon Rice (Center for Self-Leadership)
- Mackenzie Robinson (University at Buffalo, SUNY)
- Mia Robinson (Cazenovia College)
- Ekong Takor (University at Albany, SUNY)
- Ofu Takor (University at Albany, SUNY)

Adult Education in September General Assembly

Confession of Belhar Confession of 1967

The Adult class will start off on September 18 with an explanation of what Glenn Leupold did in Portland, Oregon, this summer and what exactly occurred at the big convention he attended, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

The Sundays following will feature a related look at our new Confession of Belhar (approval affirmed this summer at that big convention) as well as the Confession of 1967 as it approaches its 50th birthday. Both confessions offer us guidance to uncertain times like we are experiencing in America today. Join us in the Rose Room at 9:30 am! Free coffee!

Have You Been Visiting First Presbyterian Church? Inquirer Class

Oct. 16 and 23, 9:30 am

Are you interested in learning more about First Pres? Have you been worshiping with us, and are you 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 and 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.

The First Presbyterian



A Summer Pastoral Presence – Rev. Eric Fagans (above), Rev. MJ Pattison (center), visitors, Nancy and Rev. Matt Samson.



Peace and Global Witness Offering - 2016 Increase the Peace

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. The Peace & Global Witness Offering, still received on World Communion 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.

This offering is one of the four Special Offerings that our denomination receives during the year. 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. The rest will be used by Albany Presbytery, the Synod of the Northeast and the General Assembly. Presbyteries and congregations all over the nation are using their share of the offering to do literally hundreds of programs to increase the peace and aid communities in addressing other issues that affect their quality of life which often contribute to violence and unrest.

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. Please 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.

Ushers and Greeters

- Sep 4 10:00 am FOCUS at Westminster
- Sep 11 9:30 am Team 2 – J Coley, Bob Stevens, Linda Stevens, David Hannay
- Sep 18 8:30 am John Myers
10:45 am Team 3 – Keith Barber, David Haase, Bob Stevens, Linda Stevens
- Sep 25 8:30 am Bruce Brynolfson
10:45 am Team 4 – Jeff Durgée, Ray Henrikson, Prudence Iyok, Rachel Smith, Roseline Takor

Deacons' Flower Ministry

- Sep 4 FOCUS
 - Sep 11 Albany West – Judy Mark, Lee Helsby, Bob Willower
 - Sep 18 Delmar - Barbara Woodruff, Margaret Zettle, Gail Scott
 - Sep 25 Albany East – Joe Mathias, Jerry Nathan
- The Rensselaer & East Neighborhood Flock hosts September Coffee Hours. Fair Trade Market is Sunday, September 11.**

The First Presbyterian

September

4 FOCUS Worship, Westminster

10:00 am Worship

6 Tuesday

1:00 pm Staff Meeting
 5:30 pm **Committee Night**
 • Membership
 • Outreach & Mission
 • Property
 7:00 pm Dinner
 7:30 pm • Christian Education
 • More Light

7 Wednesday

12:00 pm JI/JO
 7:00 pm S.E.N.T. Board



8 Thursday

6:00 pm Choir Potluck Dinner

11 Worship in the Park

9:30 am Worship in the Park
 10:30 am Fellowship & Picnic

12 Monday

6:00 pm *Music Together*
 6:30 pm First Musical Cast Meeting

13 Tuesday

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

14 Wednesday

7:00 pm Nominating Committee

15 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

16 Friday

12:00 pm Newsletter deadline

17 Saturday

9:00 am Tutor Training
 Assembly Hall

18 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*

19 Monday

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

20 Tuesday

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

21 Wednesday

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

22 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

25 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

26 Monday

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

28 Wednesday

6:30 pm Small Group B

29 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

Note: Italics indicate outside groups.

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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The First Presbyterian

Lectionary

- Sep 4 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**
Jeremiah 18:1–11 Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18
Philemon 1–21 Luke 14:25–33
- Sep 11 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**
Jeremiah 4:11–12, 22–28 Psalm 14
1 Timothy 1:12–17 Luke 15:1–10
- Sep 18 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**
Jeremiah 8:18–9:1 Psalm 79:1–9
1 Timothy 2:1–7 Luke 16:1–13
- Sep 25 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**
Jeremiah 32:1–3a, 6–15 Psalm 91:1–6, 14–16
1 Timothy 6:6–19 Luke 16:19–31

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

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

Wagemark certified

WAGEMARK



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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.