

**We welcome you** to the Drive-in worship at the First Church in Albany and invite you to sign a registration card. We thank Mary Bon for providing the ministry of music.

**The special offerings received** at the Drive-In Worship this summer have been designated for Koinonia Primary Care/Compassion in Action, a ministry providing access to quality primary and mental health services for the underserved in West Hill and surrounding neighborhoods in Albany. Last year thanks to your generosity more than \$2500 was contributed.

**Church offering envelopes and copies of our newsletter, *THE FAMILY*, are available by request;** please speak with one of our ushers.

**Today is the last Sunday of Drive-in worship for the season. Next Sunday worship will be at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary .**

The FOCUS congregations are worshipping together at 10:00 a.m. today at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

**A big thank you to all who helped with the Food Pantry School Supply Distribution.** We supplied 45 children with much needed school supplies. Thank you! Lorraine.

**Shop on Amazon? Did you know that if you go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com),** Amazon will donate a % of your purchase to FOCUS Churches of Albany? You just search and select Focus Churches of Albany Inc. Same prices, same everything. Here's the link: *Support FOCUS when you shop for back-to-school items. #StartWithaSmile at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/30-0257933> and Amazon donates.*

## THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

(Reformed Church in America)

110 North Pearl Street, Albany, NY 12207 ~ (518) 463-4449 Email: [firstchurch@verizon.net](mailto:firstchurch@verizon.net) ~ Website: [www.firstchurchinalbany.org](http://www.firstchurchinalbany.org) ~ Sunday Worship: 10:30 am

### Founded in 1642; Continuing in Ministry Today

*In response to God's unconditional love for all people made known to us in Jesus Christ, we are called to be a welcoming and affirming community. The First Church in Albany includes young and old, families, couples and singles, rich and poor, persons of various races, ethnicities, backgrounds, sexual orientation and gender identities, differing physical and mental abilities, believers and seekers. We welcome into the full life of the church all those whom God sends us. Centered in Christ, we commit ourselves to breaking down dividing walls and building a community where all are loved.*

### SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST September 4, 2016

What are possessions? Just my stuff? Or, do my possessions include more intangible things to which I cling - ideas, prejudices, opinions, the filters through which I see the world? Are my relational obligations my possessions? And does my family possess me body and soul? What does it mean to carry the cross? What is my cross? Is my own life my possession, my world's possession, or God's possession?

Here, Jesus sounds as uncompromising as Moses. *I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live! Love God and live! Choose life! See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity.* (Dt. 30:19)

But sit down and count the cost. It will cost everything! It will cost the crucifixion of Jesus and the taking up of whatever cross the world opposed to life gives you to bear, not only on your own behalf but for Life itself!

Choose life. What does it take to be alive? That answer is as specific and particular as each of our lives.

--Suzanne Guthrie

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**September 4, 2016**

Musical Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Prayer of the Day

The Scripture Lesson      Luke 14: 25-33

The Sermon      “Thinking Twice About Following Jesus”

Offering our Gifts

The Invitation to Communion

The Communion Prayer and Prayers of Intercession

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Words of Institution and Communion

Prayer after Communion

Benediction

AΩ

**THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH**

Sunday	9/4	<b>Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:00 AM      Drive- In Worship 10:00 AM      FOCUS Combined Service @ Westminster Presbyterian Church
Monday	9/5	<b>Labor Day</b> Office & Food Pantry Closed
Tuesday	9/6	6:00 PM      Consistory
Wednesday	9/7	9:00 AM - 11:30 AM - Food Pantry Open
Sunday	9/11	<b>Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 10:30 AM      Sanctuary Worship (Communion) 11:45 AM      Coffee and Conversation Post Service: Christian Practices- <i>Prayer: Oriented Toward God</i>