



First Presbyterian Church

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The mission of historic First Church is to bring diverse people of metropolitan Buffalo together to follow Jesus Christ through worshiping God, fostering spiritual growth, and serving the community.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 12, 2014

Wherever ◇ appears, you are asked to stand if you are able to do so.

*Text in **bold print** indicates congregational responses.*

PRELUDE Prelude on *Christ our Lord, Came to the Jordan* *J. S. Bach*

◇CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

The voice of the Lord is over the waters;

the God of glory thunders.

And the voice from heaven said:

This is my Son, the Beloved,

with whom I am well pleased.

◇PRAYER OF THE DAY (*responsive*)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray:

God of life and new life, you are splendid and strong! Your voice thunders above the sound of loud waters. You sit enthroned above the floods of life. As Jesus heard you speak to him in his baptism, may we also hear you calling us your beloved, through Jesus Christ, your son, our brother. **Amen.**

◇HYMN 461

“God Is Here!”

Abbot’s Leigh

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

God of glory, we confess that we have not sought your face. We adore the high and mighty and ignore your humble servant. We act with prejudice and partiality and fail to share your love for all. Forgive us; give us grace. Pour out the power of your Spirit and renew us in our calling: to show the wonder of your love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (*responsive*)

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us,

Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. **Amen.**

◇CANTICLE

“Glory to the Father”

Richard Wetzel

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as in the beginning, so now, and forever. Amen.**

◇PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1-9

OT pages 670-671

ANTHEM

A Paean of Praise

Jack Ossewaarde

O praise ye the Lord! Praise Him in the height; rejoice in His word, ye angels of light; ye heavens adore him by Whom ye were made, and worship before Him, in brightness arrayed. O praise ye the Lord! Praise Him upon earth, in tuneful accord, ye sons of new birth; praise Him who hath brought you His grace from above, praise Him who hath taught you to sing of His love. O praise ye the Lord! All things that give sound; each jubilant chord, re-echo around; loud organs, His glory forth tell in deep tone, and sweet harp, the story of what He hath done. O praise ye the Lord! Thanks giving and song to Him be outpoured all ages along: for love in creation, for heaven restored, for grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord.
Paraphrase of Psalm 150

SECOND READING: Matthew 3:13-17

NT page 3

SERMON

“Fulfilling Righteousness”

Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings

◇HYMN 492

“Baptized in Water”

Bunessan

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD’S PRAYER (*unison*)

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.

OFFERTORY

God Be in My Head

John Rutter

God be in my head and in my understanding. God be in mine eyes and in my looking. God be in my mouth and in my speaking. God be in mine heart and in my thinking. God be at my end and in my departing.
—Old English Prayer

◇DOXOLOGY 591

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Old Hundredth

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

◇PRAYER OF DEDICATION

◇HYMN 262

“God of the Ages Whose Almighty Hand”

National Hymn

◇CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude on *Our Father, Thou in Heaven Above*

Johann Schneider

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICERS



SESSION AND TRUSTEES BY CLASS AND TERM

Clerk of Session

Janet Hill

Class of 2014

Mark Armesto (T) (1)

John Darby (T) (2)

Lauren Hill (T) (2)

Marv Riegler (2)

Erica Wichtowski (1)

Class of 2015

Jean Hess (2)

Tim Hess (1)

Janet Hill (2)

Don Houck (T) (2)

Susan Koeppl (1)

Virginia McIntyre (1)

Class of 2016

Ian Bradford (T) (2)

Mike Henry (T) (2)

Stephanie Smith (1)

Ryan Nadbrzuch (T) (1)

Maria Oakley (1)

BOARD OF DEACONS BY CLASS AND TERM

Class of 2014

Pat Brown (1)

Russell Carlson (2)

Mary Field (2)

Karen Frieder (2)

Olga Rico-Armesto (1)

Lou Ann Luther Riegler (1)

Class of 2015

Liz Kamke (1)

Tina Osei (1)

Judith Paradzai (2)

Phil Sims (2)

Denis Wettlaufer (2)

Class of 2016

Jackie Addo (1)

Cleo Alexander (2)

Mark Juan Armesto (2)

José Gomez (2)

Gifty Koramoah (1)

Ken Madell (2)



(T) indicates that the Elder has also been nominated or elected to serve as a Trustee while on Session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2014

Today's Liturgist is Christina Banas.

Today's acolyte is Mark Juan Armesto.

Welcome to all visitors— you have a friend at First Church! If you would like to learn more about our diverse, welcoming faith community, please speak to a Deacon after worship.

If you have a prayer request to include during Prayers of the People, please use one of the blue prayer cards available in the Narthex or by asking a Deacon. Please write neatly and give your card to a Deacon.

PLEDGE ENVELOPES

2014 pledge envelopes for those who requested them are available for pickup in the Narthex. Generic envelopes in the pews may always be used for a donation.

ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE

Committee chairs, program leaders, and staff, the deadline for the 2013 Annual Report is **Wednesday, January 15th**. Please email your reports to Christina Banas. Annual Reports will be available on January 26, one week before the annual meeting.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Women's Book group will meet on **Thursday, January 23rd** at 6:00 p.m. for a pot luck meal, and discuss the book A Visit from the Goon Squad by Jennifer Egan. The gathering will be at Karen Stephenson's (52 Bondcroft, Eggertsville).

HELP FEED THE HUNGRY

Join us on **Wednesday, January 29 at 4:30 p.m.** to serve meals to the hungry at Friends of Night People (corner of Wadsworth and Hudson). Wear First Church gear if you have it! Sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Sponsored by the CMO Committee.

WINTER GLOVES & HATS

Donations of new and gently used hats and gloves are being collected for our food pantry patrons. Donations may be left in the basket on the stairs in the chancel. Thank you!

VILLAGE CHURCH

We are excited to announce that beginning in February of 2014, 202 years after our founding, we will be honoring our history as the mother of churches. Village Church will be leasing worship and community space from First Church. We are enthused that we are able to support this growing spiritual community. We feel it fits our mission to "bring diverse people of metropolitan Buffalo together to follow Jesus Christ by worshipping God, fostering spiritual growth, and serving the community." We are blessed with this space and blessed to offer it.

While it will entail some minor changes to our habits, this is part of the plan of growing the congregation and becoming the spiritual body that we strive to be. **The Session will be available to discuss the coming changes and answer any questions or concerns in open forum meetings following worship today and next Sunday, January 19th.**

FIRST CHURCH STAFF LIST

The Reverend Dr. Philip S. Gittings, *Interim Pastor*
RevPhil@firstchurchbuffalo.org
Voicemail extension 13 / Cell: 548-0466

The Reverend John Long, D.D.,
Parish Associate for Community Outreach
johnrlong17@verizon.net

Dr. David Bond, *Organist/Choirmaster, Bookkeeper*
DBond@firstchurchbuffalo.org
Voicemail extension 17

Jason Bravo, *Contemporary Musician*

Christina Banas, *Business Manager*
CBanas@firstchurchbuffalo.org
Voicemail extension 11

Quinton Meyer, *Volunteer Assoc. for Pastoral Care*
meyer405@aol.com / Cell:909-2259

Liz Kamke, *Outreach Assistant*

Tom Hollfelder, *Custodian/Security Guard*
Church Office Voicemail extension 10
email@firstchurchbuffalo.org

Weddings Voicemail extension 15
weddings@firstchurchbuffalo.org

COFFEE HOUR PASTRIES WELCOME

Donna at Room for Dessert, our kitchen tenant who supplies our Sunday baked goods, is on vacation until the end of January. Baked goods to share during coffee hour are welcome for the next three Sundays. Show off your baking skills (or your favorite grocery store's baking skills)!

NURSERY CARE

Nursery care is provided Sundays during worship at First Church and is designed to serve infants and toddlers ages birth through 4 years old, their parents and the church as a whole. After the Children's Message, little ones are invited to the nursery where there are many stimulating toys to explore and other children the same age to socialize with. Our nursery caretakers will provide your child with quality care and teach them about God's love.

Children of Sunday School age, who are 3 and older, are invited to join us for Sunday School in the CE classrooms. For the first fifteen minutes, children will stay with their parents in worship. After the Children's Sermon, we will walk as a group up to the Sunday School classrooms. Parents are asked to come to the CE Wing at the close of worship to pick up their children and go together to fellowship hour.

On communion Sundays, all children will stay in worship with their parents for the duration of the service.

By providing loving care for the children, we are helping them form the impression that church is a pleasant place to be where people love them!

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, January 12	9:30 a.m.	Adult Christian Education — Pastor's Study
	11:00 a.m.	Worship, Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings preaching — Sanctuary
	11:15 a.m.	Sunday school — CE Wing
	12:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hour — Narthex
	12:15 p.m.	Discussion Meeting re: Village Church — Chapel
	12:30 p.m.	Board of Deacons Meeting — Historical Hall
Monday, January 13		Building Closed
Tuesday, January 14	10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting — Pastor's Study
	12:30 p.m.	Food Bag Assistance — Historical Hall
	4:30 p.m.	Literacy Tutoring — Chapel
	5:30 p.m.	Membership Committee Meeting — Pastor's Study
	6:30 p.m.	Christian Education Committee Meeting — Historical Hall
Wednesday, January 15	1:00 p.m.	Annual Report Deadline
	4:30 p.m.	Bible Study — Pastor's Study
	7:00 p.m.	Literacy Tutoring — Chapel
		Session Meeting — Chapel
Thursday, January 16		No events
Friday, January 17		No events
Saturday, January 18		No events
Sunday, January 19	9:30 a.m.	Adult Christian Education — Pastor's Study
	11:00 a.m.	Worship, Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings preaching — Sanctuary
	11:15 a.m.	Sunday school — CE Wing
	12:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hour — Narthex
	12:15 p.m.	Discussion Meeting re: Village Church — Chapel