



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 worshipping God, fostering spiritual growth, and serving the community.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY JANUARY 15, 2017

*Wherever ♦ appears, you are asked to stand if you are able to do so.
Text in **bold print** indicates congregational responses.*

PRELUDE Partita on *Mold Me, O God, After Thy Goodness* *J. G. Walther*

♦CALL TO WORSHIP:

Sing a new song, **a song of thanks and praise,**
for God has done wondrous deeds, **and is great beyond compare!**
Let us worship God!

♦PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray: Holy God, you sent your son to be the light of the world, so that all may know the brightness of your love. Fill us with your grace this day that we too may bear witness to his light and serve your coming reign. In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

♦HYMN 314 “Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song” *Bridegroom*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Mothering God, we have chased after foolish things, and spent our strength on vanity; our labor has been in vain. Deliver us from arrogance and forgive our self-concern, that we may find our reward with you, as servants of your dream. Through Jesus Christ we pray Amen.

KYRIE 574 “Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us” *Kyrie*
Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Beloved, you are forgiven in Christ, the lamb who bears our sin. Happy are those who put their trust in God, and delight to do God’s will, for God makes our footing sure upon the rock of Christ

♦PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pass this peace to each other.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove: open our ears to the truth of your word, that the testimony of Christ may be strengthened among us and the glad news of deliverance revealed. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 49:1-7

OT page 679

PSALM HYMN Psalm 40

(The Choir will sing verses 1-3. The congregation is invited to join in singing verse 4)

1. I waited patiently for God, for God to hear my prayer; and God bent down to where I sank and listened to me there.
2. God raised me from a miry pit, from mud and sinking sand, and set my feet upon a rock where I can firmly stand.
3. And on my lips a song was put, a new song to the Lord. Many will marvel open-eyed and put their trust in God.
- 4. Great wonders you have done, O Lord, all purposed for our good. Unable every one to name, I bow in gratitude.**

GOSPEL READING: John 1:29-43

NT page 92

SERMON

Rev. Elena Delgado

◇HYMN 434

“Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples”

Kingsfold

◇AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Adapted from the Confession of Belhar

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ. We believe that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We believe that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker. We believe that the church is witness both by word and deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rev. Elena Delgado

Response: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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.

OFFERTORY

Create In Me A Clean Heart

Jean Berger

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. When many cares perplex me, Thy comfort delights my soul. My times are in Thy hand, and Thou wilt guide and sustain me even unto the end. With Thee is the fountain of life; in Thy light do we see light. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Amen.

◇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.**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICERS



SESSION AND TRUSTEES BY CLASS AND TERM

Class of 2017
 Mark Armesto (T) (2)
 Lucas Lloyd (T) (1)
 Henry Porter (T) (1)
 Sue Snyder (1)
 Roger Woodard (1)

Class of 2018
 John Darby (T) (1)
 Tim Hess (2)
 Lauren Hill (T) (1)

Class of 2019
 Andrew Gaerte (2)
 Don Houck (T) (1)
 Maria Oakley (2)
 Lovelace Quarshie (1)
 Stephanie Smith (2)

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

BOARD OF DEACONS BY CLASS AND TERM

Class of 2017
 Pat Brown (2)
 Rebecca Whipple (1)
 Madeline Mason (1)
 Lou Ann Luther Riegler (1)
 Olga Rico-Armesto (2)
 Nolan Whipple*(1)

Class of 2018
 Christina Banas* (1)
 Mary Field (1)
 Liz Kamke (2)
 Sheila Miller (1)
 Tina Osei (2)

Class of 2019
 Jackie Addo (2)
 Sam Gaerte (1)
 Gifty Koramoah (2)
 June McGrath (1)
 Denis Wettlaufer (1)

**Indicates Co-Moderator*



PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Lucas Lloyd, Chair
 Jimmy Martinez, Vice Chair
 Mark Armesto
 Gregg Borland
 Jean Hess
 Liz Kamke
 Karen Lewis
 Quinton Meyer

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, January 15	2016 Annual Report Deadline
11:00 a.m.	Worship, Rev. Elena Delgado preaching — Sanctuary
11:15 a.m.	Sunday School — Classrooms
12:00 p.m.	Fellowship Time — Narthex
2:00 p.m.	Explore Buffalo Tour — Sanctuary
Monday, January 16	Church Closed Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (Staff Holiday)
Tuesday, January 17	
10:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting — Pastor's Study
12:30 p.m.	Food Bag Assistance — Historical Hall
4:30 - 6:00 p.m.	Literacy Tutoring — Chapel
6:30 p.m.	One Symphony Circle Board Meeting — Historical Hall
Wednesday, January 18	
4:30 - 6:00 p.m.	Literacy Tutoring — Chapel
7:00 p.m.	Session Meeting — Houghton Basement Conference Room
Thursday, January 19	
3:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Native Offerings Crop Share Pickup — Narthex
Friday, January 20*	Church Closed
Saturday, January 21*	No events
Sunday, January 22*	
11:00 a.m.	Worship, Elder Lucas Lloyd preaching — Sanctuary
11:15 a.m.	Sunday School — Classrooms
12:00 p.m.	Fellowship Time — Chapel

*Rev. Elena Delgado will be out of town from Friday, January 20 through Sunday, January 22. Elder Lucas Lloyd will preach on January 22. Pastoral Care coverage will be provided by Rev. Tracey Daub, who can be reached at University Presbyterian Church at 836-7660.

◇PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, O loving God, that you have placed in the hearts of your faithful people the gift of generosity and the desire to do your will. Use these gifts to proclaim good news to every nation and restore all people to Christ. Amen.

◇HYMN 342

“By Gracious Powers”

Intercessor

◇CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude on *Our Father, Thou in Heaven Above*

Johann Schneider



From the Organ Bench-

From time to time, I've been asked about some of the music from the morning's service so occasionally, I will include a blurb that you might find interesting.

This morning's psalm hymn is a metrical paraphrase of Psalm 40 from the Iona community. The first two verses are thanksgiving and the remaining two are a testimony to the importance of singing God's praises. The music is by the early American composer, William Billings.

The final hymn, “By Gracious Powers,” is a text by Fred Pratt Green. It's based on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's “New Year 1945”, a letter he wrote to his friends while imprisoned by Hitler's army. It was smuggled out of prison and appeared in Bonhoeffer's *The Cost of Discipleship*. The tune was composed in 1904 by the British composer, C. Hubert H. Parry.

Household Prayer: Morning

You inclined your ear and heard my cry, and lifted me when I was low. Strengthen me for service as I carry your light in the world. Amen

Household Prayer: Evening

Jesus, fill me with your peace, that I may be strengthened to the end and find my rest in you. Amen.

THE ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION of the First Presbyterian Society of the Town of Buffalo will be called on Sunday, February 5, 2017 immediately following worship in the Sanctuary. The purpose of the meetings is to receive reports of the staff, boards, committees and organizations of the Church; to elect a church Nominating Committee, to receive the Session's budget for the year 2017; and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2017

Today's Liturgist is Hilary Bradford.

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.

The flowers in the chancel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our parents, Elizabeth and Frederick Neuschel, who provided us with unconditional love and support, by Faith Burke, Joan Dana and Frederick Neuschel, Jr.

Additional parking is available in the Gateway-Longview lot on Wadsworth Street Sunday mornings from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM.

Listening devices for the hearing impaired are available in the Narthex. Please ask a Deacon for assistance.

PLEASE NOTE

The church will be closed on **Friday, January 20.**

Rev. Elena Delgado will be out of town from Friday, January 20 through Sunday, January 22. Elder Lucas Lloyd will preach on January 22. Pastoral Care coverage will be provided by Rev. Tracey Daub, who can be reached at University Presbyterian Church at 836-7660.

205TH BIRTHDAY PARTY!

You are cordially and enthusiastically invited to First Church's 205th Birthday Party on **Sunday, January 29** after worship! Fun, food and fellowship will abound. **RSVPs are required**, as this will be a catered meal. Please sign up in the Narthex or

contact the Church Office. As birthday "gifts" to the church, donations to the Lyon Food Pantry are welcome.

FIRST CHURCH BOOK GROUP

The Book Group will gather on **Thursday, January 26** at 7:00 PM at June McGrath's home (79 Baynes in Buffalo, 748-5362). The book to discuss is Canal Town by Samuel Hopkins. Light refreshments will be provided.

CENTRAL BRANCH MEETING

Moving forward on a
Presbytery-wide Mission focus
Monday, January 30, 6-8 PM
Kenmore Presbyterian Church
2771 Delaware Avenue, Kenmore
Meal is provided

RSVP to leslie@firstprestona.org by January 24

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN WINTER GATHERING

Saturday, February 11, 10:30 AM-2 PM
First Presbyterian Church, East Aurora
9 Paine Street, East Aurora
Worship Leader: Rev. Geri Lyon
Speaker: Sherry Pomeroy, PhD, RN,
Faith Community Nurse:

"Understanding addiction and how to find help."
Bring items to donate to Horizon Health Services:
hats, gloves, books, crossword puzzles
Cost of lunch is \$7.00

RSVP for lunch to Peggy Fanning 826-7542 or
peggyfanning@hotmail.com

"CAPTURE A MOMENT"

**January 20 & 21—Bryncliff Resort
Varysburg, NY**

A men's retreat sponsored by Westminster Presbyterian Church is open to all men from First Church as well. This year's retreat will emphasize fellowship, reflection, discovery and interaction. Spiritual discernment and attentiveness will be the primary focus as reflected in the presentations. A full brochure and registration information are available on the table in the narthex.

JANUARY PEACE COFFEE HOUSE

Haiti & Hurricane Matthew—
local efforts & how to help
Monday, January 23, 7-9 PM
Canisius College - Science Hall
convenient parking on Main near Delavan
Sponsored by Peace Action-Canisius

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl ministry group meets Mondays at 6:30 PM at the Eggertsville-Snyder Library (4622 Main St. in Snyder just past Harlem Rd.) Anyone is welcome, and yarn can be provided.

WEDDING INQUIRIES

Couples interested in getting married at First Church may contact the Church Office Tuesday through Friday at email@firstchurchbuffalo.org or 884-7250, ext. 10.