



First Presbyterian Church

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“Like” us Facebook: “First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo, NY”

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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 19, 2014

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

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

PRELUDE

Lied

Louis Vierne

♦CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

Here is the servant of God, a light to all the nations.

Come and see the Messiah, the Lord.

Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Come and see the Messiah, the Lord.

♦PRAYER OF THE DAY (*responsive*)

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 411

“Arise, Your Light Is Come!”

Festal Song

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

God of glory, we confess that we have not sought your face. We labor for worldly things and lack in spiritual gifts. We sacrifice much for false idols and forsake your holy Lamb. Forgive us; give us grace. Take away the sin of the world and teach us, as disciples, 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 49:1-7

OT pages 679

ANTHEM

SECOND READING: John 1:29-42

NT page 92

SERMON

“Can I Get A Witness?”

Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings

◇HYMN 276

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Faithfulness

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

◇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 443

“O Christ, the Great Foundation”

Aurelia

◇CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fugue in G minor

J. S. Bach

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 Koeppel (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.

THE ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION of the First Presbyterian Society of the Town of Buffalo will take place on Sunday, February 2, 2014 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 2014; and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

WINTER WORSHIP AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Each week we gather together to listen for God's Word, to praise God for another week full of blessings, and to ask God to continue to bless and guide us. During January and February of 2014 we will share in some delightful experiences of worship together as we seek the warmth of God's love during the cold months of winter.

What to expect next week — January 26th

We hear of Jesus making his first moves in developing his earthly ministry as he moves out of Nazareth and calls his first disciples in the fourth chapter of Matthew.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2014

Today's Liturgist is Virginia McIntyre.

Today's acolyte is Nanayaw Osei.

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.

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 in the Chapel.**

NEW MEMBERS CLASSES

New Members classes will be held after worship on Sundays, February 9, 16, & 23 in the Pastor's Study. If you are interested in attending, contact Phil Gittings at revphil@firstchurchbuffalo.org or 884-7250, x13.

FRUITCAKES

The Women's Association still have some famous Claxton fruitcakes for sale in the Church Office. The price is \$4.50 each, and checks made payable to Women's Association may be left in Christina Banas' mailbox in the church office.

APARTMENT WANTED

A friend of First Church is looking for a one bedroom apartment in Elmwood Village. If you know of any available, please let Phil Gittings know.

COUCHSIDE CALVIN

The Young Adult Couchside Calvin group will meet at Phil Gittings' home (54 Irving Pl, in the back) on Tuesday, January 21 17th at 7:00 PM. Street parking is available. Copies of the chapter to be discussed can be picked up today by seeing Phil.

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).

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

YOUNG ADULT LUNCH CLUB CONTINUES...

...with pancakes! Next **Sunday, January 26**, the young adults will be cooking brunch together right at the church. Stephanie Smith will be coordinating brunch ingredients. Contact her if you would like to bring something to contribute (531-3450/smithstephanie@gmail.com) New parents, this includes you - children are welcome!

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)!

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.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

"From Resurrection Community to Christian Church!"

**Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM
in the Pastor's Study**

How did the early Christian movement, a loose knit group of disciples sent into a hostile world, become the Christian church as we have come to know it? From twelve disciples scattering with gospel to share, the message of Christ became an institution accepted by Emperor Constantine within just a few centuries. The books of the Bible were picked, doctrines were developed and church hierarchies evolved. How did all this happen, and what lessons should we learn that can help us in our faith journeys today?

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

Every Wednesday a wonderful group gathers in Phil's office to study the Scriptures together. The group is studying the Letter of Paul to the Romans. This unique letter lays out a number of things about our Christian faith that we all should grapple with if we are going to be faithful disciples of Jesus together. We hope you'll join us on Wednesdays to share in this delightful group. We meet at 1:00, and there's always coffee and tea for those who join us.

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!

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.

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 19

9:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
11:15 a.m.
12:00 p.m.
12:15 p.m.

Adult Christian Education — Pastor's Study
Worship, Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings preaching — Sanctuary
Sunday school — CE Wing
Fellowship Hour — Narthex
Discussion Meeting re: Village Church — Chapel

Monday, January 20

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Staff Holiday)
Building Closed

Tuesday, January 21

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
12:30 p.m.
4:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

Staff Meeting — Pastor's Study
Food Bag Assistance — Historical Hall
Literacy Tutoring — Chapel
Young Adult Couchside Calvin Gathering at Phil Gittings' home

Wednesday, January 22

1:00 p.m.
4:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m.

Bible Study — Pastor's Study
Literacy Tutoring — Chapel
P&A Committee Meeting — Pastor's Study

Thursday, January 23

6:00 p.m.

Women's Book Club Gathering at Karen Stephenson's home

Friday, January 24

5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Explore Buffalo Launch Party — Chapel

Saturday, January 25

No events

Sunday, January 26

9:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
11:15 a.m.
12:00 p.m.
12:15 p.m.

Adult Christian Education — Pastor's Study
Worship, Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings preaching — Sanctuary
Sunday school — CE Wing
Fellowship Hour — Narthex
Young Adult Lunch Club Brunch — Blue Room Kitchen & Historical Hall