



PRESENTS

# a love letter to buffalo

A benefit concert for the historic preservation  
of the First Presbyterian Church building  
and E.B. Green tower



Friday, February 21, 8:00 PM

@ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / GENERAL ADMISSION \$40

Go to: [tickets.bpo.org](http://tickets.bpo.org) • BPO Box Office 716.885.5000 • Seating is limited, so hurry!



Champagne reception to follow, hosted by Chelsea Bonnet



## First Presbyterian Church

(716) 884-7250 • Fax: (716) 884-7253

email@firstchurchbuffalo.org • www.firstchurchbuffalo.org  
“Like” us Facebook: “First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo, NY”  
Follow us Twitter @1stChurchBflo

*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.*

### FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME FEBRUARY 16, 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 *Ubi Caritas* *Gerald Near*
- ♦CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)  
We are God’s people, walking together. **Let us choose the way of the Lord, and live.**  
We are God’s servants, working together. **It is the Lord who makes us live and grow.**
- ♦PRAYER OF THE DAY (*responsive*)  
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray:  
God of blessing, you call us to be one with you and your creation in love, faithfulness, and truth. Help us to carry out the vows we make: to adore you with our whole heart, to live in mutual support of one another, and to love as if your reign has fully come. **Amen.**
- ♦HYMN 464 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” *Hymn to Joy*
- PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)  
**God of glory, we confess that we have not sought your face. We look to false gods for help and turn away from you. We say yes to what is evil and no to what is good. Forgive us; give us grace. Help us to resist temptation and choose a better way: 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: Psalm 119:1-8

*OT page 566*

ANTHEM

Cantate Domino

*Giuseppe Pitoni*

*O sing to the Lord a new song, O praise Him in the company of His saints. Let Israel rejoice in Him who made all, the sons and daughters of Zion, be joyful and praise God on high.*

SECOND READING: Matthew 5:21-37

*NT pages 4-5*

SERMON

“Crossing Boundaries”

*Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings*

◇HYMN 413

“All Who Love and Serve Your City”

*Charlestown*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Rev. John R. Long, D.D.*

SPECIAL PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH SUDAN

*see page 3*

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

Unto Thee, O Lord

*Robert J. Powell*

*Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed. Show me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth and teach me: for thou are the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day. Remember, O Lord, thy tender mercies and thy loving kindnesses; for they have been ever of old.*

*Psalm 25:1-2, 4-6*

◇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 417

“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

*Regent Square*

◇CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude on *Salzburg*

*Gerald Near*

# 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.*

## Lenten Classes

Lent begins on March 5, Ash Wednesday! The weeks of Lent are wonderful times to renew your faith and move forward in your spiritual journey. For Lent 2014 we are offering two very special group experiences for Adults who seek to find out more about God's love and will for their lives.

**Sunday Morning:** "What Does It Mean to Be Saved?" The idea of being saved and the doctrine of salvation are central to Christian faith. Many of us find that we question our salvation at times, or have it questioned by someone who has had a "born again" moment in their lives. At 9:30 a.m. each Sunday in Lent we will learn what the Scriptures say about salvation as well as discussing this important idea using a variety of theologians and our own ideas. This is designed to be a small group experience where each of us has the opportunity to express our thoughts and opinions. And we will have coffee available. Even if you have never been to Sunday school this will be a terrific group to join.

**Sunday Evening Small Group:** Have you ever been asked, "What do you believe?" For many Christians this question can lead to embarrassing moments of hesitation. Most people avoid even asking or sharing answers to it. But the fact is that we Christians are supposed to witness to our faith, to give testimony to what God has done in our lives. During Lent we will form a small group to discuss "The Problem of Testimony." Using the book Testimony, by Thomas Long of the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta this group will explore ways that we can talk about our faith in day to day situations. You don't need to buy a book to join the group, but if you want to you can purchase one through the church office. The group will meet on Sunday nights for six weeks and will meet in various homes as well as scheduling a couple of meetings at the church. If you are interested please let Phil Gittings or the church office know and we will include you in this very special group.

## 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

**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

SPECIAL PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH SUDAN (*unison*)

**Gracious God, we lift before you the people of South Sudan who seek to create a new future after a period of violence.**

**Three years ago, we rejoiced with our sisters and brothers as they voted for independence and became the world's newest nation. Over the past months, our hearts were heavy as a deep conflict threatened to destroy all for which they have strived. We mourned with those who lost loved ones in this unrest, with the children and adults who have become traumatized again and again, with those who are injured, imprisoned, and hiding, and with those driven from their homes.**

**We give thanks for the ceasefire, but we pray for our brothers and sisters as they face the tasks of building a future together.**

**God of reconciliation, we ask you to send your Spirit of unity and peace to guide the people and the leaders of South Sudan from violence and into the paths of peace and justice. We pray for our partners in the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan, the South Sudan Evangelical Presbyterian Church, RECONCILE, the South Sudan Council of Churches and Across; may they feel your presence with them. Strengthen them with the power of your Holy Spirit as they witness to the strong love of Christ, advocating for peace and justice in a situation that is only hopeful because we follow a resurrected Christ. In whose name we pray, Amen.**



### South Sudan Facts:

- Capital city: Juba
- Languages spoken: English, Arabic, Dinka, Nuer, Bari, Zande, Shilluk
- Population estimates: 8.26 - 9.28 million people
- Area: 248,777 square miles (644,329 sq km) (slightly smaller than the state of Texas)
- Major religions: Animist, Christian
- President: Salva Kiir Mayardit
- It is the world's newest nation, gaining independence on July 9, 2011.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2014

**Today's Liturgist** is Ilsa Cooper.

**Today's acolyte** is Kofi Osei.

**The flowers in the Chancel** are given to the glory of God, and in celebration of Hilary & Beryl Bradford, by Jamey, Caroline & Nellie.

**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.

### **NEW MEMBERS CLASSES**

New Members classes continue today after worship and next Sunday, February 23 in the Pastor's Study. If you are interested in attending, contact Phil Gittings at 884-7250, extension 13 or revphil@firstchurchbuffalo.org.

### **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.

### **WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB**

Women's Book group will meet on **Thursday, February 27th** at 6:00 p.m. for a pot luck meal, and discuss the book Orange is the New Black by Piper Kernan. The gathering will be at the home of Ingrid Meyer.

### **COUCHSIDE CALVIN**

The Young Adult Couchside Calvin group will meet at Rebecca Laubenstein's home on **Tuesday, February 18th** at 7:00 PM. Copies of the chapter to be discussed can be obtained by seeing Phil.

### **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.

# CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, February 16

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

Adult Christian Education — Pastor's Study  
Worship, Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings preaching — Sanctuary  
Sunday school — Sunday school  
Fellowship Hour — Chapel  
New Members' Class — Pastor's Study

Monday, February 17

Building Closed  
Presidents' Day (Staff Holiday)

Tuesday, February 18

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  
Couchside Calvin at Rebecca Laubenstein's home

Wednesday, February 19

1:00 p.m.  
4:30 p.m.  
7:00 p.m.

Bible Study — Pastor's Study  
Literacy Tutoring — Chapel  
Session Meeting — Historical Hall

Thursday, February 20

No events

Friday, February 21

8:00 p.m.

March newsletter deadline  
"A Love Letter to Buffalo" performed by the BPO — Sanctuary  
Reception to follow in the chapel.

Saturday, February 22

1:00 p.m.

Explore Buffalo Speakers' Series — Chapel

Sunday, February 23

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

Adult Christian Education — Pastor's Study  
Worship, Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings preaching — Sanctuary  
Sunday school — Sunday school  
Fellowship Hour — Chapel  
New Members' Class — Pastor's Study