

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)

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

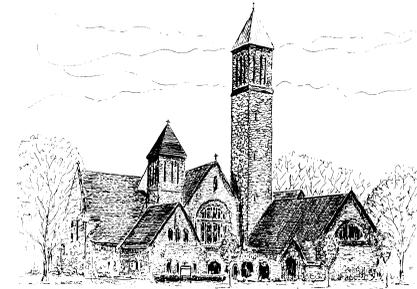


BOARD OF DEACONS BY CLASS AND TERM

Class of 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)



First Presbyterian Church

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“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.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 23, 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 *Charterhouse* *Leo Sowerby*
- ♦CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)
Come, let us sing to the Lord.
Make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
The hour is coming, and is now here.
Let us worship the Lord in spirit and truth.
- ♦PRAYER OF THE DAY (*responsive*)
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray:
Lord God, Great I AM, you are living water. As we worship you this day show us who we are: channels of your love and vessels of your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
- ♦HYMN 446 “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken” *Austrian Hymn*
- PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)
God of great mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you. We are quick to quarrel and condemn and slow to receive your gift of grace. We boast about our own success and deny our suffering Savior. Forgive us, by your steadfast love. Create a clean heart within us, teach us your holy way, and restore the joy of salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
- ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (*responsive*)
God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.
- ♦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: John 4:5-26

NT pages 94-95

ANTHEM

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks

Herbert Howells

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks, so longeth my soul after thee, O God. My soul is a thirst for God; yea, even for the living God. When shall I come to appear before the presence of God? My tears have been my meat day and night, while they daily say unto me where is now thy God? Like as the hart ...

—Psalm 42, v. 1

SECOND READING: John 4:27-42

NT page 95

SERMON

“High Noon at Jacob’s Well!”

Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings

◇HYMN

“The Water God Gives Us”

Foundation

See page 3

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(responsive)*

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

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

Prelude on *O Lamb of God Most Holy*
(Tune: Hymn 82)

J. S. Bach

◇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 *(responsive)*

Holy God, for all your blessings, known and unknown, remembered and forgotten,
we give you thanks.

In gratitude we share our gifts—the gift of money, time, and our lives.

Use all that we bring, and all that we are, to bring your healing and hope, your compassion and peace to our neighbors near and far. Amen.

◇HYMN 281

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

Cwm Rhondda

◇CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude in G

J. S. Bach



Easter Flowers

Help decorate the Sanctuary with spring flowers on Easter, and take the opportunity to honor a loved one. Purchase an Easter plant “celebrating” or “in memory” of someone special. The cost is \$8.00 per plant. To order yours, please complete the form below and include a check for the correct amount made payable to First Presbyterian Church with “Easter Flowers” indicated on the check. Reservations can also be made by calling the church office at 884-7250, ext. 10 and mailing your check. Credit card payments by VISA or MasterCard can be taken over the phone.

Dedications will be printed in the Easter bulletin. On Easter Sunday, April 20th, our flowers may be taken home or left to be given to our shut-ins.

Your Name: _____

Please check if you would like your dedication to be anonymous: ____

These flowers are dedicated: (please circle one)
in celebration of... or in loving memory of...

Name(s): _____

Number of flowers: _____ Total: \$ _____

Please check one:

I would like my flower(s) to go to our shut-ins. ____

I plan on taking my flower(s) home. ____

Order deadline is Palm Sunday, April 13th.

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, March 23

9:30 a.m. Adult Christian Education — Pastor's Study
 11:15 a.m. Worship: Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings preaching — Sanctuary
 11:30 a.m. Sunday school — CE Wing
 12:15 p.m. Fellowship Hour — Chapel
 7:00 p.m. Lenten Small Group Discussion — Pastor's Study

Monday, March 24

April newsletter deadline
 Building Closed

Tuesday, March 25

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

Wednesday, March 26

1:00 p.m. Bible Study — Pastor's Study
 4:30 p.m. Literacy Tutoring — Chapel
 6:30 p.m. Church Life Committee Meeting — Historical Hall

Thursday, March 27

6:00 p.m. Women's Book Club gathering at Ilsa Cooper's home

Friday, March 28

No events

Saturday, March 29

12:00 p.m. Explore Buffalo Speakers' Series — Chapel

Sunday, March 30

9:30 a.m. Adult Christian Education — Pastor's Study
 11:15 a.m. Worship, Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings preaching — Sanctuary
 11:30 a.m. Sunday school — CE Wing
 12:15 p.m. Fellowship Hour — Chapel
 7:00 p.m. Lenten Small Group Discussion — Pastor's Study

The Water God Gives Us

FOUNDATION 11.11.11 ("How Firm a Foundation")

1. The wa - ter God gives us in wond - rous sup -
 2. O God, we con - fess that we seek emp - ty
 3. Then just like that wo - man who went to the
 4. The gift that you gave is the great - est of

by is wa - ter that's liv - ing and nev - er runs
 things; we strive af - ter wealth and the com - fort it
 well; we hear you, O Christ, and the truth that you
 wealth; you give liv - ing wa - ter! You give us your -

dry. For eve - ry - one drinks and is thirs - ty a -
 brings. We buy things in hopes that our spir - its will
 tell. You know who we are and you know what we've
 self! May we, like that wo - man, go back where we

gain, but God's liv - ing wa - ter gives life with - out end.
 sour yet still we are thirs - ty and left want - ing more.
 been; you know us and love us in spite of our sin.
 live and tell those we know of the life that you give.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR LENT

Do you wonder what you would say if an acquaintance ever asks you what you believe? Many people go through their entire lives and never talk deeply about their faith. Have you ever had someone ask you if you're saved and you haven't quite known what to say, or even if you believe that you are saved? These and other questions will be addressed head on during Lent of 2014 in our Adult Education classes. How about making a special effort to learn and grow in this Lenten season? Here's the line up.

Sunday Mornings: "What Does it Mean to be Saved?"

In the Bible a man comes to Jesus and asks, "What must I do to be saved?" This is just one of the many questions about salvation and being saved that have arisen over the centuries. You might also have heard some of these: "What am I saved from?" "Who saves?" "What are we saved for?" "How do I know if I'm saved?" These and many other questions will be discussed from the Biblical, theological, and practical perspectives during the Sundays of Lent in the class "What does it mean to be saved?"

Lent is a time when all of us can stop to reflect on our faith, and we hope you will do just that in Lent of 2014 by joining this unique class on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in Phil's study.

Sunday Evening Small Group: *Testimony: Talking Ourselves Into Being Christian*

Thomas G. Long's wonderful book Testimony: Talking Ourselves Into Being Christian inspires and instructs Christians on the terrifying, fascinating, and ultimately enjoyable task of learning how to talk about what we believe in front of others. Furthermore, he does so without making us feel guilty, shallow, phony, or ostracized. This is not just a shallow "tips for what to say" kind of book, though there are lots of tips here. Mostly, this is a book that helps us clarify our faith to ourselves as well as to others. It's a delightful guide for everyone on a spiritual journey. Even if you don't have the book this small group will provide plenty of wonderful discussion opportunities to help you grow in your faith and practice.

The brand new Sunday Evening Small Group will meet every Sunday in Lent beginning on March 9th at 7:00 p.m. and continuing for six weeks. Our first meeting will be in Phil's office, but we do hope to meet in homes at times as well. You do not have to buy or read the book to come to the small group. Those wishing to buy the book may do so by contacting the church so we can place an order for you, or by contacting your own bookseller of choice. We really hope we'll see you there on Sunday nights!

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

On Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. a wonderful group of our members gathers to study the Scriptures together. They are always happy to have new members join them whenever you can for an hour and a half or two of lively discussion and learning. They meet in Phil's office. This week, on March 26, the group is beginning a new study of the "**Gospel of Matthew**"! This gospel has many unique characteristics, and during the year 2014 Matthew is the main gospel in the lectionary so a good number of sermons will be based on the stories of Jesus recorded there. Please take time—or make time—to join us for a discussion that will have positive impact on your spiritual journey.

ANNOUNCEMENTS **SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2014**

Today's Liturgist is Don Houck.

Today's acolyte is Case Darby.

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.

DEACON'S CONTACT LIST

If anyone knows of someone who is house-bound, in the hospital, or would like visitation from one of the Deacons, please contact Phil to let him know. Arrangements can then be made for him or one of the Deacons (or both) to make the visit.

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.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Women's Book group will meet on **Thursday, March 27th** at 6:00 p.m. for a pot luck meal, and discuss the book Last Supper Catering Company by Michaelene McElroy. The gathering will be at the home of Ilsa Cooper.

SPRING FLING POTLUCK

Sunday, April 6 after worship in the Chapel
Bring a dish to share.
Sponsored by the Church Life Committee

SUNDAYS DURING LENT

Each week we will share the Scriptures and try to hear God's word to us. We have some new and different hymns, with new words written to beloved, well known music. Our Lenten worship will focus on giving us all the opportunity to share God's love with each other as there will be a new "Prayer Station" in the sanctuary each week with prayers and spiritual exercises you can do for your own growth and preparation. Your Worship and Music Committee members are preparing these Prayer Stations and we hope you'll find them not only enjoyable, but also helpful in your growing relationship with our Lord.

March 30 — Fourth Sunday in Lent:

One of the great gifts in our Scriptures is Psalm 23, and this week we get to hear that beloved psalm once again. Additionally, we will listen for God's Word in Ephesians 5:8-14.